

I don't give a damn  
for any man that  
can spell a word  
but one way . . .

COLLECTOR—  
Indian Relics,  
Antique Guns, and  
Related Objects.

# Harry B. McDaniel Agency

BETTSVILLE AND KENNSY, OHIO

Federal F. A. License  
No. 34-3274

May 22nd, 1961

Whitman Publishing Company  
Racine, Wisconsin

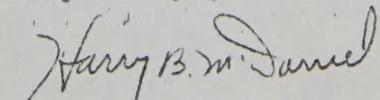
Gentlemen:

If it is not too much of an imposition, the writer would like very much to ascertain any information that you could give, regarding the history of the particular Silver N.E.Threepence, that is pictured on page No.14., of the 14th Edition, of the R.S.Yeoman "Guide Book Of United States Coins. Who is the owner of the N.E.Threepence, and where was it located?

The reason for this request-is as follows, Being interested in coins,however, mainly I am interested in Indian relics, and I have been rather specializing in Eastern Indian silver items, such as Peace medals, silver crosses, gorgets, etc., when I can secure this type item. Last week I came into possession of a Silver Indian Arm Band, by Timothy Dwight, a Boston silversmith of the 1645 to 1691 period, and upon this arm band there were two silver N.E.Threepences as dangles, and there was the third suspension ring for the third, but missing NE Threepence piece. And when checking the picture on page No.14 of the Yeoman coin book, I notice the condition, and hole for suspension on the pictured Threepence coin was the same as the two that I have. And I begin to wonder if the one pictured could be the missing third coin that might have been on the arm band as a dangle, and if so, that possibly if the origin of the pictured Threepence piece was known, that it might show the approximate location as to where the arm band might have originally been found.

Thanking you, I am,

Very truly yours

  
Harry B. McDaniel

May 26, 1961

Mr. Harry B. McDaniel  
Harry B. McDaniel Agency  
Bettsville, Ohio

Dear Mr. McDaniel:

I have your recent letter describing the unusual silver arm band that you have recently acquired. This is indeed a very unusual item and probably very significant as a numismatic item.

The existence of the threepence was generally doubted until the appearance of two specimens sometime in the early 1860's. I have not yet definitely established when these two coins came to light. Montrovillo Dickeson, who was an ambitious, but not too careful, numismatist, apparently did not know of their existence when he compiled his NUMISMATIC MANUAL in 1859. In the notorious Clay sale of 1871 we find three specimens offered with the remark that the issue was heretofore unknown. Lot No. 69 went for \$61 to "Elliott": No. 70 for \$31 to "Savoy": and No. 71 for \$42 to Brevoort which would indicate that these early collectors believed the pieces to be genuine; however a look at the plates in this catalogue quickly belies this fact, now that we know what a genuine specimen looks like.

Since Crosby was well aware of the existence of two genuine specimens in 1875, my next step was to locate these coins to try and determine when they made their appearance. The Appleton specimen mentioned by Crosby is now the property of the Massachusetts Historical Society. The second specimen went into the Yale College collection. A check with them revealed the following paragraph in their "1863 catalogue of coins belonging to Yale College": "The gem of (this) cabinet... is the New England Threepence, the existence of which numismatists have doubted. The piece needs no

description as an engraving of it is given on the title page. For a long time supposed unique, its value is not lessened by the recent discovery of a similar piece by W. S. Appleton, Esq. of Boston, which puts the genuineness of the issue beyond a doubt." So apparently the three-pence was known in the early 1860's but not generally publicized until Crosby's 1875 treatise.

Other than this, no information is known about the New England threepence. I would like very much to examine your specimens sometime to determine if they are genuine pieces. Perhaps you could send me a photograph of your arm band or perhaps I will even be able to call on you sometime in July when I will be making a trip through Ohio and may have a few minutes to stop in your city.

I would be very interested to learn more about your discovery in the interest of keeping my records up to date.

Sincerely,

WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

Kenneth E. Bressett  
Numismatic Editor

KNB:jam

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# Harry B. McDaniel Agency

BETTSVILLE AND KANSAS, OHIO

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No. 32-3274

June 3rd, 1961

Mr. Kenneth E. Bressett,  
Numismatic Editor  
Whitman Publishing Company  
1220 Mound Avenue  
Racine, Wisconsin

Re: Yours of May 26th, 1961,  
Silver Arm Band;

Dear Sir:

Thank you very much for your nice letter of May 26th, with information regarding the silver NE threepence pieces.

As per your request, I am enclosing, for your inspection, a set of four pictures of the arm band and the threepence pieces, one showing the obverse, one showing reverse full view; then one showing obverse center of arm band, and obverse of coins; And the other showing reverse of coins, and center of obverse of arm band.

Having had experience in examining and studying well over a hundred items like this in my collection, and many more belonging to others, I can say that this arm band and dangles are authentic pieces. The threepence pieces having the same patina as the arm band.

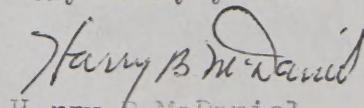
If you will, please return the pictures to me.

Your comments on this item would be appreciated.  
lost

Not knowing whether silver ingots from the mines of the southwest would be of any interest to you, I might mention that I have a few, namely a "Father Kino", a King Carlos 3rd, one from the Alter Mission, one from the Saint Sebastian Mission hoard, etc..

Thanking you again, I am,

Very truly yours

  
Harry B. McDaniel

June 7, 1961

Mr. Harry B. McDaniel  
Harry B. McDaniel Agency  
Bettsville, Ohio

Dear Mr. McDaniel:

Thank you for your recent letter giving additional information about your silver arm band. The photographs were excellent and I would like to ask you if it is possible to have a duplicate set of these prints made for me. I would, of course, be happy to pay any expenses involved.

The dies that were used to strike these coins do not match the dies that were used on the specimen in the Massachusetts Historical Society. I am afraid that at first glance many collectors would say that because of this fact, the coins cannot be genuine.

My opinion of your coins is somewhat unsettled. I am very much impressed by your authentication of the arm band and the fact that the threepence pieces and the arm band have the same patina. The coins seem to pass all of the other qualifications for being genuine. The weight of the coin will be a very important factor. Would it be possible for you to carefully weigh each of these coins and tell me the results. You can tell with certainty that these coins were struck with dies and not cast or hand tooled.

If your two specimens turn out to be genuine pieces, they will be rather important numismatically, not only because they represent two heretofore unknown specimens, but because they were struck from dies that have never been recorded.

The reason for what may seem to you to be overcautiousness on my part, is that the NE coins have been counterfeited on many occasions. I have just finished checking through my collection of photographs of no less than twelve different struck forgeries of these pieces.

I most certainly was interested in your comments about the silver ingots from the Spanish mission mines. I understand that these pieces are rather rare. I examined a small hoard of these that was discovered about three years ago, but do not own any of the pieces.

I would like very much to hear from you again concerning the weight of your coins. If you would care to send the arm band to me by registered mail, I would be happy to examine the coins and give my opinion as to their authenticity.

If this item is something that you plan to sell, I may be interested in purchasing it with the thought of preserving it as a historic numismatic item rather than an Indian relic.

Sincerely,

WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

Kenneth E. Bressett  
Numismatic Editor

KEB:jam

encl.

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# Harry B. McDaniel Agency

BETTSVILLE AND KANSAS, OHIO

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No. ....

June 23rd, 1961

Kenneth E. Bressett,  
Numismatic Editor,  
Whitman Publishing Company  
1220 Mound Avenue  
Racine Wisconsin

(COPY OF LETTER ENCLOSED  
IN REGISTERED MAIL PACKAGE  
CONTAINING ARM BAND AND COINS  
IN QUESTION)

Re: Silver New England Threepence Coins  
attached to Indian Arm Band, By Timothy Dwight,  
Your letters of May 26th, and June 7th, 1961;

Dear Sir:

In complying with your request to send you the arm band  
for your examination and opinion, I enclose the T.D. arm  
band with the two (NE) silver threepence dangles attached,  
and ask that you favor me by returning this unit as soon  
as possible after examination.

Being negligent in not contacting the previous owner of  
the enclosed arm band, I will do so in the near future,  
and if he can give me any history on it I will pass it  
along to you. However, it is doubtful if he can, because  
he gave me two different stories. One story was, when he called  
at my office with the item, that he had just made a trip  
to the Gulf coast to a gun show ~~taxing~~, and that he bought  
the arm band in a second hand store for \$1.00. However, in  
going through my files this week, I find a letter from the  
previous owner dated September 15th, 1960 with a drawing of  
this arm band and (NE) dangles, that he stated in the  
letter that he had paid \$100. down on it, and wanted me to  
tell him what it was, and whether or not I would be interested  
in it. This letter must have arrived on the same day that  
Mrs. McDaniel had major surgery, and I didn't give the letter  
much thought, nor the arm band, because I just wrote him a note  
stating that I would check as soon as I had time, then I must  
have completely forgotten about it until he called on me.  
I could have been mistaken and assumed that he told me he picked  
the arm band up on his trip South.

You mentioned weighing the coins in your letter of the 7th,  
I did not want to separate the coins from the arm band, or molest  
the connecting wire in any way, for the reason that a prospective  
buyer could be an Indian Trade Item Collector, like myself, and the  
evidence of tampering with any part of the unit would have an  
effect upon its value. Therefore, I ask that you do not take the  
coins off the arm band or connecting wires.

Very truly yours

*Harry B. McDaniel*  
Harry B. McDaniel

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis 5, Missouri

PLEASE REGISTER - VALUE \$3,000

Indian arm band with 2 coins

n/c

WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY  
6-29-61  
jam

June 27, 1961

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Eric:

I think I have a bit of a surprise for you this time. Enclosed herewith are copies of my recent correspondence with Mr. Harry B. McDaniel. Under separate cover I have mailed you the silver Indian arm band that he mentions in the letters.

I talked to Mr. McDaniel and have received his permission to send this to you for examination and authentication. I am sure that you, more than anyone else, are best qualified to pass judgment on it.

I carefully weighed the arm band and found it to weigh 90.8385 grams. We then tried to calculate the weight of the coins by holding them away from the link and re-weighing the arm band. This was not the best way to do it but about all we could do, since he does not want the links disturbed in any way. As near as I can tell, the sharper specimen weighs 1.45 grams and the poorer specimen weighs 1.6288 grams.

This means that both coins weigh considerably more than the 1.12 grams that the Appleton specimen weighs. You will also quickly notice, of course, that the dies are completely different.

Even with all of these things against the coins, they seem to have an air of authenticity. The arm band, hallmark and everything else about it seem so convincing that it is hard to believe someone faked the whole thing.

Let's keep this whole thing between ourselves for a while until we are certain about what we have here. Perhaps then we can publish it. This certainly will be an important numismatic discovery, if it turns out to be authentic.

-2-

I am leaving for vacation tomorrow and will not return until the 17th. Please return the arm band directly to Mr. McDaniel as soon as you are finished with it.

'sever,

Ken Bressett  
Numismatic Editor  
WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

KEB:jam

encl.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

July 3, 1961

Mr. Kenneth Bressett  
Whitman Publishing Co.  
1220 Mound Avenue  
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Ken:

You asked me to report on the fascinating silver Indian armband belonging to Harry B. McDaniel, Bettsville, Ohio. I appreciate your kind comments as to my opinion. I have returned the item to the owner as you instructed.

The T. D.hallmark differs from the hallmarks of Timothy Dwight in my silver books in that (a) the letters do not have ceriphs, (b) there are only four dots instead of a circle of dots, (c) the dots are not evenly spaced. I believe that if photographs were ordered of the hallmarks on well known pieces of Timothy Dwight it can be readily determined whether this hallmark is from the same punch or punches as genuine pieces. This is fundamental in verifying the coins.

There are a number of curious situations to evalute, each of which points to a fabrication:

1. The texture of the silver of the threepences and the armband is virtually identical and yet the coins and armband were supposed to be made at different times. (Dwight was born in 1645 or later).
2. The three lower links are soldered and there was no solder in the seventeenth century.
3. The end loops on the armband are soldered closed for no reason.
4. The top four holes show no wear from ornaments being hung on them.
5. The threepences are both very round whereas original NE pieces are not.
6. The holes in each threepence is in exactly the same place as on the Yale original.

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ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

Page 2

July 3, 1961

Mr. Kenneth Bressett

7. The two threepences on the armband have a different obverse and reverse die punch than any other NE piece of any denomination. (The original threepence has the same obverse punch as the original sixpence).
8. There is only one reverse die for the sixpence and it would be surprising if there were more than one die made for the threepence which was issued in very small amounts for only a part of a year.
9. The left upright of the N does not connect with the diagonal and this is not found on any NE die.
10. Any Indian armband made after 1660 would probably use Willow or Oak Tree coins for decoration and Timothy Dwight was not working until after that date.
11. I cannot determine the weight accurately. The right link and coin together weigh  $27\frac{1}{2}$  grains, the left 29 grains. I figure the links at about 4 grains (length 34 mm. diameter 1 mm). This would leave the planchets too heavy as they would not exceed 18 grains with the hole solid ( $18\frac{1}{2}$  mm diameter,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mm thick).
12. The story as to how it was acquired recently indicates the seller has not been accurate.

I am sending you extra copies of this letter so that you may, if you wish, send one to McDaniel.

I thoroughly enjoyed working on the item and hope you are satisfied with my thoughts.

Hope you had an enjoyable vacation.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC  
EDUCATION SOCIETY

By

  
Eric P. Newman, President

EPN  
atb

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# Harry B. McDaniel Agency

BETTSVILLE AND KANSAS, OHIO

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No. ....  
July 5th, 1961

Mr. Kenneth E. Bressett,  
Numismatic Editor  
Whitman Publishing Company  
1220 Mound Avenue  
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Sir:

Please accept my thanks for the presentation copies  
of the 15th edition of the Guide Book, and, Modern and  
World Coins sent me, I surely appreciate them. Please  
express my appreciation to Mr. Yeoman.

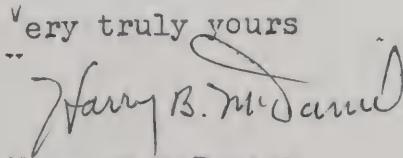
Your dealers bi-monthly papers are swell, As soon as  
they were received I opened and started to read the  
first one, I could not lay them down until I read all  
five sent me. I trust that you didn't forget to place  
my name on your mailing list. Thanks again.

Have not as yet had any word from Mr. Neuman, however  
the long holliday rather fouls us all up.

If you ever get up this way, and have the time, stop  
in and I will be glad to show you my Indian silver  
collection. We are only about 15 minutes from the Fremont-  
Port Clinton turn-pike interchange, Gate No. 6., on Route  
No. 12. just half way between Fostoria, Ohio and Fremont,  
Ohio, Just ten miles SW of Fremont, Ohio.

Since reading your Bi-Monthly, I am writing to Beebee's  
for a new catalog.

Thanking you again, I am,

Very truly yours  
  
Harry B. McDaniel

July 5, 1961

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis 5, Missouri.

Dear Mr. Newman:

We have your letter of July 3, which was addressed to Mr. Kenneth Bressett.

Mr. Bressett is presently vacationing in the East. We will bring your letter to his attention when he returns, approximately July 17.

Sincerely,

WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

Judith A. Mund

jam

July 6, 1961

Mr. Harry B. McDaniel  
Harry B. McDaniel Agency  
Bettsville, Ohio

Dear Mr. McDaniel:

We have your letter of July 5, which was addressed to Mr. Kenneth Bressett.

Mr. Bressett is presently vacationing in the East and we expect him to return July 17, at which time I will bring your letter to his attention.

Very truly yours,

WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

Judith A. Mund  
Secretary to Kenneth Bressett

jam

July 18, 1961

Mr. Harry B. McDaniel  
Harry B. McDaniel Agency  
Bettsville, Ohio

Dear Mr. McDaniel:

I have now heard from Mr. Newman and I am enclosing a copy of his opinion about the silver Indian arm band. Apparently he does not feel that this piece is genuine and lists several reasons supporting his theory.

For my own part, I am still not convinced one way or the other and I intend to do more research on this item before coming to any conclusions.

I trust that the arm band has returned to you by now. Thank you very much for giving us the opportunity to examine this very unusual item. Thanks also for your kind invitation to visit your home. I shall keep this in mind if I am ever in that vicinity.

Very truly yours,

WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

Kenneth E. Bressett  
Numismatic Editor

KEB:jam

encl.

July 19, 1961

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis 5, Missouri

Dear Eric:

Many thanks for your letter and for taking the time to examine the Indian arm band. I was happy to have all of your comments on this item.

Some of your arguments were not conclusive. However, I believe we both share the same opinion that there is a grave possibility that the coins are not genuine. I hope, however, that additional information turns up that will lead us to positive conclusions.

I plan to attend the ANA Convention from Friday evening on the 18th to Sunday morning. I hope that I will have a chance to see you at that time. I also am planning to be in St. Louis sometime during the first week in August. Is there a possibility that we could get together at this time?

'sever,

Ken Bressett  
Numismatic Editor  
WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

KEB:jam

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# Harry B. McDaniel Agency

BETTSVILLE AND KANSAS, OHIO

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No. ....  
July 21st, 1961

Mr. Kenneth E. Bressett,  
Numismatic Editor  
Whitman Publishing Company  
1220 Mound Avenue  
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Bressett:

Thank you very much for your letter of July 18th,  
with copy of Mr. Newman's letter to you of the 3rd  
enclosed.

Yes, Mr. Newman was very prompt in returning the arm  
band. However, I did not acknowledge receipt of it to  
Mr. Newman because I personally signed a return post-  
office receipt card, which would acknowledge that the  
package was received, and I did not want to bother  
Mr. Newman, thinking I would await your return from  
vacation, and I would hear from you then. By the way,  
I trust you had a nice vacation.

After seeing your picture in the Numismatic News that  
you were kind enough to send me, and after you read  
Mr. Newman's report, then mentioned in the second  
paragraph of your letter of July 18th, that "You were  
still not convinced one way or the other", I have gained  
a lot of respect for you. Maybe I had ought to explain  
this further,

First, I judge a man from his looks, And by the way, your  
picture in the paper made me take a quick second look, because  
a friend of mine, a Mr. Paul Hoffman, a Professor and purchasing  
agent of the Marion, Ohio School, is a dead ringer for you. You  
don't have a lost brother, do you? Secondly, It is believed that  
you think like I do, That due to so many items being faked in  
the coin field, that about all, you notice I said about all,  
Numismatist, when in doubt, will lean toward the idea that a  
doubtful item is not authentic, and will work harder at trying  
to prove to himself that it is not authentic, than he would work  
to try and prove to himself that it was authentic, I wouldn't know  
why, except to protect themselves against error, because he is less  
likely to uphold his reputation by saying an item was fake, and it  
was found to be authentic, than if he said it was authentic, and it  
was later found that it was a fake,

Thirdly, In taking Mr. Newman's twelve curious situations in

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BETTSVILLE AND KANSAS, OHIO

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No. ....

July 21st, 1961

No.2.

Mr. Kenneth Bressett:

evaluating, I will take one at a time, number one through number twelve, and see if I can pick out some things that would be of value to both you and I, things that there could be questions about. So if you are interested, place Mr. Newman's letter along side, and we will take item No.1. first,

No.1A. Paragraph No.2. of letter, In argument, The Timothy Dwight Hallmark is identical with the Hallmark of Timothy Dwight in one of my five books of Hallmarks, and without checking the others, I am sure it is the same in another book I have. There are five dots visible on Hallmark, with worn spot where the sixth dot would have been which would, in my opinion make the spacing the same as the T.D. Hallmarked pictured on page No.287. of The Book Of Old Silver, by Seymour B. Wyler. Too, in this second paragraph, Mr. Newman states, That if a photo was ordered it could be determined if the hallmarks were the same. By this remark, it would appear that there was some doubt in mind.

Now dont get me wrong, I am just bringing up questions that I say, may be of help,

No.1. I cannot see what would establish that the arm band and coins were made at the same time. I give this thought, One, I have in my collection Indian silver present items issued by the French, because of early French hallmark being in a very odd place on pendant and very hard to make out like it was intended to be destroyed, then made into a small pendant which is definitely American. The English, and Americans would take the gorgets, medals, pendants, etc. given by the other countrys from the Indian, make them over, then return them to the Indian in the American pattern, design, so they could be associated with the Americans. The English did this with French trade items, History shows this. Two, It being customary that a silversmith serve seven or so years apprenticeship, Could not it be possible, that T. Dwight served his apprenticeship with T. Dwight, Sr.? Because records of the old silversmiths are incomplete. This is just a theory.

No.2. I think No.1. above answers this. Too, What would prevent me from attaching authentic Bible coins to the bracelet if I were a silversmith in the middle seventeenth century. Too, The Indians took their tools and ornaments to the blacksmiths and silversmiths for repairs. Possibly the coins could have been applied later on. Possibly the links could have been re-secured later on.

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# Harry B. McDaniel Agency

BETTSVILLE AND KANSAS, OHIO

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No. ....

July 22nd, 1961

No. 3., Next day.

Mr. Kenneth Bressett:

- No. 3. I cannot get the picture of "The arm bands end loops being soldered closed. If Mr. Newman would have examined the arm band closer he would have found that the arm band was not soldered closed, But the one folded end of the arm band was flattened do to abuse during its years, and the end was filled with dirt, Not Solder, Because I took a needle and cleaned this.
- No. 4. The four holes at the top were not made to hang ornaments by, The purpose of the four holes at the top were for the attachment of a fur piece, to act as an insulator to the bare arm. And no doubt this insulator was lost or thrown away by the Indian. The Indian may have had to eat it, One never knows.
- No. 5. If I were a silversmith and wanted to make something nice, in order to be a credit to my profession, and all I had was an old silver coin that was out-of-round, and I wanted it to look right for a dangle, I believe I would file the coin round. It would look better that way.
- No. 6. As stated in No. 5., To look nice, there was but two places on the NE pieces that the holes should be made, and this is about half way between the NE on one side and the III on the other, So the NE and th III would not be marred.
- No. 7.) As I understand it, there is a lot of theory about the silver No. 8.) threepence pieces, and there being little difference in the No. 9.) ratio between those heretofore believed as authentic, and the three that were originally attached to my arm band, assumeing that the missing one was exactly like the two now attached, what evidence is there that would say the dies used on the arm band coins are not the originals. Who could say that when making, or preparatory to making the NE shilling, sixpence, and the three pence, that there were not two dies made, an that the coiners little son Joe didnt swallow the die, and the reason of the scarcity of the threepence pieces were that they had to waite on a new die to be made.
- No. 10 What could you base any reason for applying the Willow or Oak Tree coins instead of NE coins?, I am satisfied that Timothy Dwight made the Arm Band, He was from Boston, The NE coins were assumed made in or near Boston. It is admitted by the authors of hallmark books that, in effect, so many dates of birth, working period, and death of silversmiths were guess work. Too, could not, Dwight have been the small boy, assumeing that the date of his birth was 1645, that helped Hull and Sanderson as the floor

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No. ....

July 22nd, 1961

Page No.4.

Kenneth Bressett:

sweep, who received his payment in re-jucks that he could play with, or scraps that he could hammer into trinkets when he got older. T.D. could have been a relative of the coiners, Or, a few years after the NE's were made and the Willow and Oak Tree Coins were in circulation, he could have bought the NE's cheaper than the other coins.. There is hundreds of theories.

No.11. Of course the weights could not be accurate unless the coins were detached, Unless one were an Einstien.

No.12. Of course the seller was not accurate. And I quote from the reverse of a business card that a dealer handed me the other day at a Lima show, "All Gun & Coin Collectors & Dealers Are Liars, Except You & Me, And Sometimes I Am In Doubt About You" Unquote.

No.13. In any event, whether it tis or taint, It is a nice piece. And from its appearance it is in my mind a vintage of the Timothy Dwight Period. Even if a fake, the coins are very old and among the good scarce fakes of the NE period no doubt. And, if there is not the demand for the item, I will put it with my Indian silver collection, (and Refer you to No.12. above under "Quote", I will show it, and join the other collectors as a liar, and this will only leave you as the sole honest Collector)

All kidding aside, I am a novice in coins, but think I have an above average knowledge of Indian silver trade items, And that we should respect you boys that have had the experience in the numismatic field, rather than to doubt you. But as I say, the dumbest fellow like myself in coins, can, in his ignorant way, sometimes bring thoughts to light that can or mite help the learned. I remember back in 1936 when we were enclosing part of a large porch on our home, and after the carpenters had their plans made out and had started the job, a neighbor woman who was a kind old soul, but with no imagination, we thought, was watching the carpenters, who were starting to take out a door to eliminate a partition, when this lady pipes up with "Hey you, dont take out that door and partition, come out here four feet and put in another partition, you will have a closet you need worse than the space you will gain", Every one looked surprised, It was the smartest move we made when remodeling. We never thought of it.

Thanking you very much for your interest in the ~~book~~ Arm Band and Coins, and a heck of a lot for the books you sent me. If you find anything new on the coins I would appreciate hearing from you. I will keep you informed of anything I find out. And I will holler like hell, if I find any other item that I think you mite be interested in. Thanks agin.

Sincerely yours, Harry B. McDaniel

I don't give a damn  
for any man that  
can spell a word  
but one way . . .

COLLECTOR—  
Indian Relics,  
Antique Guns, and  
Related Objects.

# Harry B. McDaniel Agency

BETTSVILLE AND KANSAS, OHIO

Federal F. A. License

No. .... July 22nd, 1961

Mr. Kenneth Bressett:

Thought because I had the time this morning after starting the attached letter yesterday, The time because I had an appointment with my Optomtrist last P.M. and he kept my glasses to put new lenzes in, and I put on a pair this morning that are too weak to work with, and too strong to see distance with, and I have been miserable and mean all morning, mean enought that everyone has left me alone, so I have the time to write, and thought that I would make a supllement to the attached letter, in order to ask a question or two, that if you will, at your convenience, you mite answer.

Having a likang for odd items, there is allways a dealer or two who are freinds of mine that comes up with odd items at the gun shows and hunts me up. A few Sundays ago, while at the Toledo, Ohio gun collectors show, a Detroit dealer calls me from my tables to his and says, Here Harry, I picked this up for you. It was a Crimshaw, I believe this is what you call pieces of art that the sailors use to make years ago in between ports. It appears to be what I thought a Walrus Tusk, flattened on one side, and a nice sailing boat engraved on it. It is authentic and old. Then in the magazine section of either The Toledo Blade, or The Cleveland Palin Dealer sunday paper there was a nice spread about a recent coin show, and it showed a picture of Jap Tree Money, Wampum, Porcelain, Chinese Jade money etc., and it showed a picture of "Whales Tooth monet from the Fifi Islands". This Whales tooth money pictured had the same shape as my Crimshaw, however I could not tell what was on the flat side, but the pikture appeared like there was some carving on the flat side, and also on the semi round side of the whale tooth money. Now, Did they use Crimshaw items for money? I would assume that the Sailers did trade them when they reached port, or sold them to the natives.

Too, Were the early Indian Peace Medals ever used for money. The reason I ask is, that a dealer once told me "If you ever get hooked with a fake George Washington Oval Peace Medal, dont woory about getting your money back, because they were the first U.S.Coinage, and would come under the law with respects to counterfeeting".

Thanking you again, I am,

Very truly yours

  
Harry B. McDaniel

P.S. Assume you are pretty tired by this time?

July 27, 1961

Mr. Harry B. McDaniel  
Harry B. McDaniel Agency  
Bettsville, Ohio

Dear Mr. McDaniel:

Thanks for your recent letter which pleased me in many ways. There are still many things left to be said for and against the NE coins on your arm band. The fact that your coins are overweight, almost perfectly round and from unknown dies is strong evidence that they are not real.

My careful weighing of the coins shows that one of them weighs approximately 1.45 grams and the other 1.6288 grams, which is considerably more than the genuine pieces weigh. The pieces could not have been field round, as this would have decreased their weight. Genuine pieces never vary more than 10 per cent from normal, but for that matter, contemporary counterfeit pieces were always underweight.

I will continue to seek information about these coins and will report to you from time to time on anything new that turns up. If we could only establish that these coins were madwn sometime before 1860, that would be a big step in the right direction.

Regarding your whalestooth: I understand that these pieces are known as tambua and were actually used as a medium of exchange in the Fiji Islands. Sperm Whale teeth were also used as money in New Guinea. Many of

these have carvings done by sailors. They are considered valuable collectors' items..

I doubt that Indian peace medals were ever used as money, although they must have been considered very valuable by the Indians. The Washington oval medal is considered very desirable for its connection with Washington and I suppose even a counterfeit would be of some value. These pieces are collected by numismatists but they cannot be considered coins or money.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely,

WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

Kenneth E. Bressett  
Numismatic Editor

KEB:jam

I don't give a damn  
for any man that  
can spell a word  
but one way . . .

COLLECTOR—  
Indian Relics,  
Antique Guns, and  
Related Objects.

# Harry B. McDaniel Agency

BETTSVILLE AND KANSAS, OHIO

Federal F. A. License  
No. 54-5374

December 1st, 1961

Mr. Kenneth E. Bressett  
Numismatic Editor,  
Whitman Publishing Company  
1230 N. Fourth Avenue  
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Bressett:

With reference to the Indian "Timothy Drift" coin band  
with the two "ME" coins attached; Was wondering if you had  
done any more research or collected any more information on  
the two coins? I have been rather negligent, and havent paid  
too much attention to it since Mr. Newman returned it, I have  
thought about writing you on several occasions, but assumed that  
you were pretty busy, and I didnt want to bother you.

So I am going to impose upon your good nature again, to ask  
the above question, and to ask if you would identify the  
couple of enclosed rubbings for me?

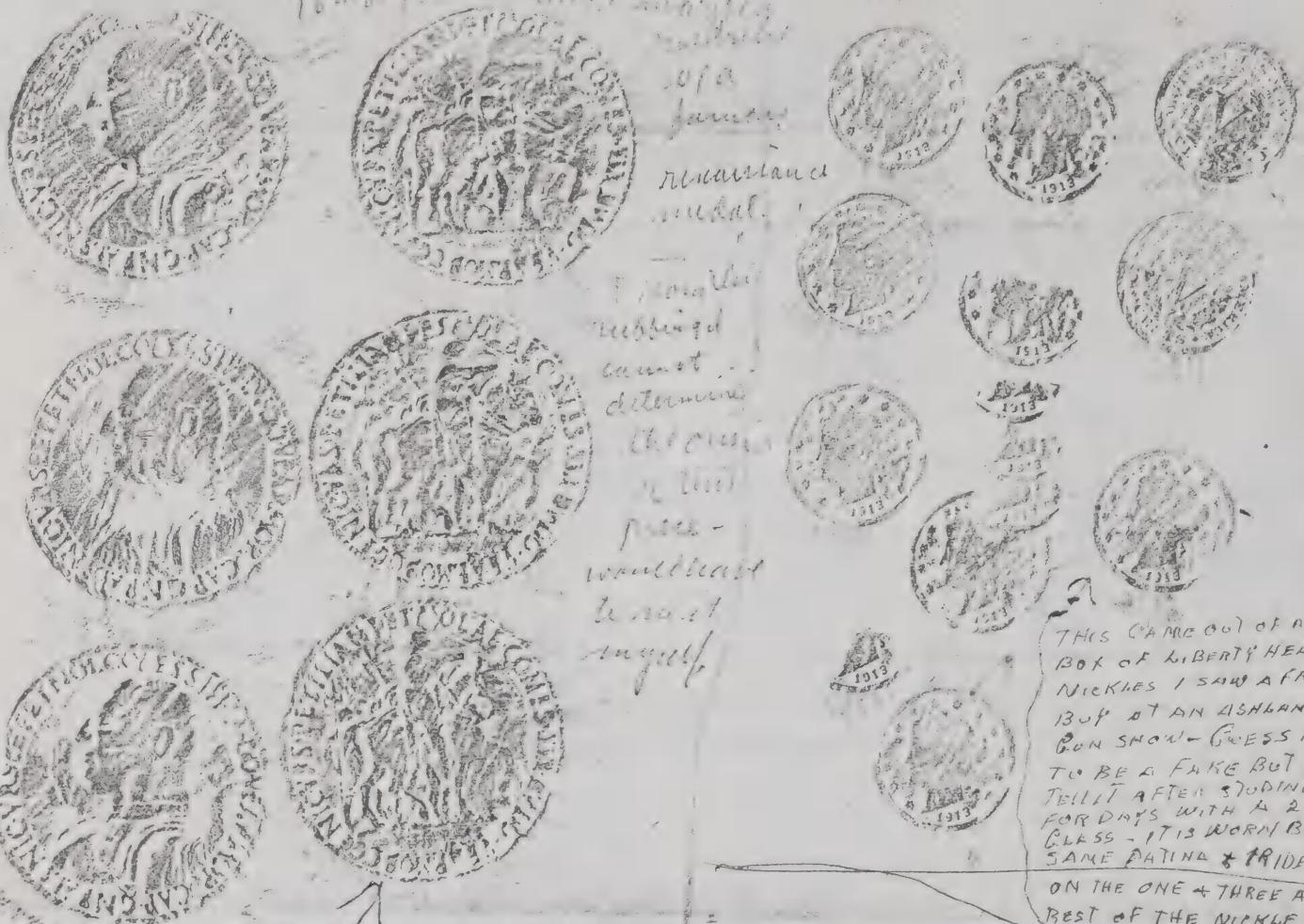
Have been very fortunate in securing additional Indian  
peace medals, and other silver trade items since last  
writing you. Fact the matter is I secured a drove of nine  
medals at an estate auction last October, six of which  
I am almost sure are authentic, and one doubtful, and two  
that I am almost sure are fakes. However, the auctioneer  
sold the nine as a lot and they were in a frame under glass,  
so I based my bid on just the two that I now know good that  
I know the origin of. Along with the good luck I experienced  
some bad luck, because after I read some of the "Merchantiser's  
you Edit", I became more interested in coins, and subscribed to  
the Coin World, and I am afraid coins will get into my blood  
like silver Indian items have.

Thanking you, and my best to you, I am,

Very truly yours  
*Harry B. McDaniel*

Harry B. McDaniel

From 1640 - 1650 or even earlier  
1640-1650 - perhaps  
possibly  
1640  
possibly  
renaissance  
medal.



PENTER

Danish

↑  
probably a fake  
made from old  
scratches paid \$10  
for a similar  
piece.

← Danish  
suggest he  
contacts Rockholme  
for an estimate of  
current value.

YR. 1645 SILVER

December 5, 1961

Mr. Harry B. McDaniel  
Harry B. McDaniel Agency  
Bettsville, Ohio

Dear Mr. McDaniel:

It was a pleasure to hear from you again. I have not been able to find any more information about the Indian arm band with the two coins attached. The consensus of opinions seems to be that these New England coins are of rather modern origin and are not the genuine issue. I am inclined to agree with this, but there is little concrete evidence to prove whether or not they are fabrications. For the time being, I will have to let the matter rest until I can turn up some new evidence.

The coin rubbings that you sent were a little difficult to identify. The large pewter piece seems to be an Italian medal from the 16th or 17th century. The square piece is Danish but I cannot identify it. I believe if you wrote to the following person, he could give you further details about this coin. He is Mr. Richard H. Rosholt, 1211 West Clinton Avenue, Round Lake, Illinois.

I am afraid that the 1913 nickel cannot possibly be genuine. The entire issue has been in the hands of prominent collectors since the coins were struck, and no specimens ever went into circulation. Furthermore, the 3 on your coin looks like it may have been altered from a 2. It does not look like the normal 3.

I hope that the above information will be of some use to you. I am pleased to learn that you are getting interested in coins. Do not hesitate to write to me again if I can ever be of any service to you.

Sincerely,

WHITMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

Kenneth E. Bressett  
Numismatic Editor

KEB:jam

The bracelet changed hands in this order: Old farmer to antique collector (who didn't know that those were coins; thought they were "do-dads") who scoured the country-side everywhere; to his long time collecting friend on a trade for an antique rifle (this fellow whom I know well recognized them as coins, but got discouraged easily trying to authenticate them and got hard-up for money); to me who bought it outright along with many other Indian artifacts because of my interest in antiquities. Thus since it was found it only changed hands three times.

I don't give a damn  
for any man that  
can spell a word  
but one way . . .

COLLECTOR—  
Indian Relics,  
Antique Guns, and  
Related Objects.

# Harry B. McDaniel Agency

BETTSVILLE ~~XXXXXX~~, OHIO 44815

Federal F. A. License

No. ....

November 16th, 1974

Mr. Lynn  
Page #2.

The Chateau medal was bought by me at the same auction house (Keko's), however I did not buy it through the auction, It was at an estate auction (Henirick Estate), I noticed an unidentified man showing this medal to another person at the south door of the auction house, I saw the man that he was showing it to shake his head No', I then stepped in and ask if I could see the medal, and I bought it of him.

With reference to the arm band with coins on it, I traded a Colt Patterson revolving rifle for this of Mr. W.E. Martt of Detroit, Michigan, He bought this and a gorget ~~next~~ from a farmer just outside of Ipswich, Mass., The farmer had plowed both items, pluss an old pistol up on his farm. Mr. Martt informed me just recently that he could take me back to the farm house where he bought the arm band and gorget. Yes, In 1961 I had the arm band and coins examined by people who were supposed to know, however they come back with such reasons as follows, and I am sure there was something strange about it, One reason was that the holes in the upper part of the arm band was not worn like the bottom holes (Of Course Not, The ~~bottom~~ top holes were for the purpose of fastening a fur or cloth piece, not dangles), another reason they gave was, The ends of the arm bands were filled with soft solder and they didnt have soft solder in those days, ( There was no solder in the end folds, it was just dirt that I picked out). Another reason was, that they thought the coins weighed more than the original coins at Yale University collection, and the Mass. Historical collection, (However, another authority informed me that he never heard of a counterfeit coin weighing more in those days than an original). Therefore, I came to the conclusion that there was the possibility that the authority that said he didnt think the coins were authentic must have been the man who authenticated the original Yales university coin, and that my two coins could have proven that he made a mistake and that the Yale coin was not a New England 3Ps. coin, but an ornament from an Indian silver trade item instead. One of the so called experts stated that if the dye could be located it would in effect make numismatic history, So this lead me to believe that they were pulling something.

All of the rest of the nine items, (ten Items) was surely from the Canadian source. I have allways wanted to go up in Canada to see if this dealer had bought it all, but have never made it.

P.S. With reference to those who are suposed to be experts, Remind me to tell you about a tomahawk pipe that I sold to a Congressman from New York as a reproduction, and he showed it to Harold Peterson who stated without a doubt it was a genuine one of the 1850 period.

Very truly yours  
Harry B. McDaniel

BETTSVILLE...OHIO 44815

Harry B. McDaniel

All Forms Of Insurance And Bonds

December 27th, 1974

Mr. William C. Blynn  
P.O.Box 321  
Hinckley, Ohio 44233

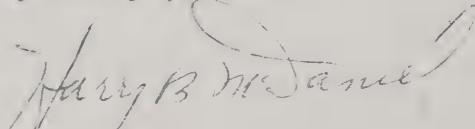
Dear Bill:

Enclosed is a copy of my letter to Mr. Doc Martt,  
the man that I got the Arm Band of, It is hoped he  
will give you or me the directions of the farm home  
that he stated he got the arm band. If he writes me  
instead of you I will pass the information on to you  
right a way.

With respects the 1789 Peace medal, I have it packaged  
awaiting the Christmad mail rush to be over, However  
I will awaite word from you before mailing, as you stated  
in your letter of December 25th that you may be up.

If you figure on making a trip here please let me know  
a day or two ahead of time, and what material you would  
be interested in.

Very truly yours

  
Harry B. McDaniel

*COPY*

McDANIEL AGENCY  
Bettsville, Ohio 44815

44815

December 27th, 1974

Mr. W.E. (Doc) Martt  
3241 Main Street  
Emmett, Michigan 48022

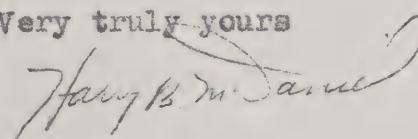
Dear Doc:

I sold the Timothy Dwight Arm Band with the two new england coins attached to a Mr. William C. Blynn, of P.O.Box 321 Hinckley, Ohio 44233 some time ago, and I gave him the information you gave me with respects the farm house you stoped at where you bought the arm band and the gorget. Now Mr. Blynn is interested in making a trip to Ipswich, Mass. the week of January 13th, 1975 and would like to go to the place that you bought the arm band.

Therefore, If you will, Please let Mr. Blynn know the directions in which to reach the farm home that you bought the arm band at. Or, let me know before January 13th that I can pass the information along to Mr. Blynn.

Thanking you, I am,

Very truly yours



Harry B. McDaniel

cc: Mr. Blynn

74

# Bowers and Ruddy Galleries, Inc.

6922 Hollywood Blvd., Suite 600  
Los Angeles, California 90028

Telex: 69-1555 Photograde LSA  
Telephone: (213) 466-4595



January 9, 1975

Mr. William C. Blynn  
Box 321  
Hinckley, Ohio 44233

Managing Directors:

James F. Ruddy  
Nancy Ruddy  
Q. David Bowers

Rare Coin Sales and Research:  
*Bowers and Ruddy Galleries*

Rare Coin Auction Sales:  
*American Auction Association*

Dear Mr. Blynn:

Thank you for your letter of January 3rd. As per the auction agreement you signed, "when material is consigned to us for sale it is not to be withdrawn for any reason whatsoever." You can appreciate that at this point we have discussed the piece with a number of perspective clients (during our own studies of it), and quite a bit of time has been spent doing this--not to mention our own research. This is a very complex item. Although never before in our history of having auctioned millions of dollars worth of coins have we ever returned a consignment to any consignor (indeed, no such request has ever been made to us), if you will send us your check in the amount of \$200 to reimburse us for our research time and trouble here we will send it back to you immediately. The pieces have not been out of our possession thus far, and they will be returned to you in the same condition as received.

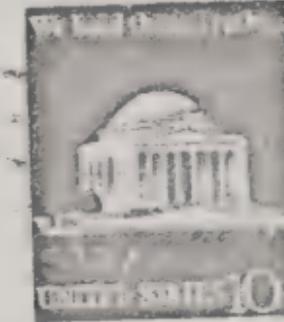
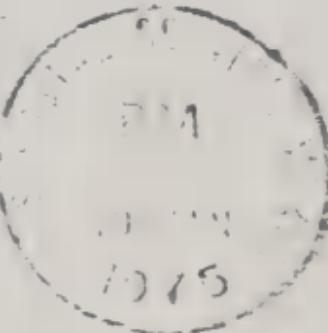
I appreciate your nice comments concerning our reputation. With best wishes,  
I remain

Sincerely yours,

GB

Sp.Gr. \_\_\_\_\_ Thickness: .021 to .026  
Coin No. 8236 Weight on drachet Diameter : .741 to .751

Sp.Gr. \_\_\_\_\_ Thickness: .0225 to .026  
Coin No. 8235 Weight on drachet Diameter : .728 to .733



Mr Wm Blynn

P.O Box 321

Hinckley  
Ohio

Mr Blynn:

I am a very blunt and direct old man, and I am taking  
the time and effort to answer your second letter.

I am not a dam fool and I don't like to be used  
the way you are trying to use me. You may not use  
my name, to enhance the value of your arm band.

I know when I read your first letter that you had  
no intention of making the trip to Ipswich any  
more than I had plans for a space trip. What you  
were after was an authentication, and I tried to help  
you as a courtesy from one collector to another.

Now as to your questions. No I did not get a gorget at  
the same time.

I like to think of my self as a professional hunter  
altho I have hunted for two years without finding a

---

single piece, I have a small collection of 28 pieces of silver  
and two porcelain gorgets the nearest of all gorgets  
I don't need any publicity writing robotics to my  
house

Now your last question no nothing is for sale  
and I hope this will dispence with any further  
correspondence between you and I

W. Maitt

Mr Blyn:

I hope this gets to you before you make the trip to Ipswich, still I am sure you could find your way there. its been several years ago that I was there. and I was sick to see they were tearing down a lot of old federal houses to make parking lots. But it is a fine old old town. I got the arm band from an old man in his eightys about 3 miles out of town, I think they called it the will road, he lived with his daughter & son in law in a very old house that had a red porch no front porch

---

just a stoop in front. I am 62 and I don't remember as good as I once did. Harry cleaned me on the arm band, as the two coins I thought were do dads, are worth a lot of money to a coin collector. But Harry is a good fellow I have known him I guess for 25 years and he and his are good people.

Now I have not been much help I know but I got the stuff almost 15 yrs ago I think. Have a nice trip  
Ipswich is a little town you won't forget

Respectfully  
W E Martin

Box 321  
Hinckley, Ohio  
44233  
Apr. 29, 1975

Mr. W.E.(Doc) Martt  
3241 Main Street  
Emmett, Mich. 48022

Dear Mr. Martt,

I want to belatedly thank you for your letter of Jan. 10, 1975.  
It was very nice of you to take the time to help me.

I was all set to leave for Ipswich when I received your letter with directions and was going to make a two week vacation from work and look a little at New England. But, I became deathly ill with the Hong-Kong or Vietnam flu or whatever the doctor called it and had to cancel out. I will now be going next Dec.

I am putting together an article for an Antique Journal on the Arm Bracelet ( I've had success with getting several published, before ) and I would like to make reference to you and use your name if I may. Also, I could use the answer to a couple of questions, if you remember the answers.

One: did the old farmer you got it from say whether he plowed it up; whether it had been in the family for a number of years; or just when, approximately, was it plowed up?

And Two: Harry McDaniels said you got a gorget at the same time; do you still have it? I would be interested in purchasing it if it be reasonable.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could answer these questions and can add any other facts to it that would make my article more interesting. I'll send a copy of the magazine when the article is published.

Thank you, Sir.

Sincerely,

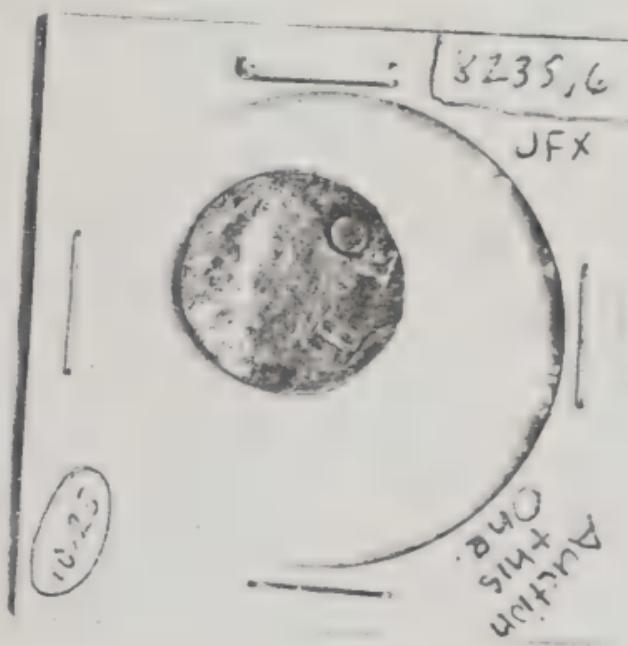
William C. Blynn

ANACS

January 23, 1976

Page 2 -

- A-2896 179? U.S. Cent. Too worn to determine the date or variety. Possibly S. 189. Genuine.
- B-4829 Well worn 1787 Fugio Cent with diagonally applied nurled edge. Edge applied long after striking and shows no wear or abuse as coin faces do. Altered coin. False edge.
- B-3898 1874 Trade Dollar. The area under DOLLAR is rough from overheating during striking. The field has a proof surface but the devices do not seem to have it. The coin is genuine. Whether it is a proof is too controversial.
- A-4159 1799 U.S. Dollar Bollender 12b. The edge planchet defect opposite the lower left star is natural (possibly caused by a piece of ash). The edge lettering is weak and doubled in part. The coin is genuine.
- A-4373 1776 Continental Dollar. Weight 267.5 grains. Sp. gr. 4.6. The surface color is much brighter than normal pieces. The edge has the leaf design, but it is too broken up. The reverse is 30 degrees offset clockwise if the coin is turned on a vertical axis. The specific gravity should be over 7 as the piece should be primarily tin. False. (Please recheck specific gravity as it was not measured by ANACS).
- 8235 New England 3d. Holed. Raised diagonal bar on NE side near bottom. 10.25 Sp. gr. This coin was one of two attached by soldered silver links to an alleged seventeenth century Indian silver arm band. The coins and band ~~was~~ were examined by me in 1961. My July 3, 1961 opinion was that the coins were false. The coin submitted was not detached then, but is now. The coin weighs  $25\frac{1}{2}$  grains which is too much in excess of the 18 grains which it should weigh without a hole. The hole is too round and shows no wear where it was hung on the arm band. The hole is in the identical place as the hole in the pierced Yale specimen. The planchet is too round for such pieces. The form of the NE and III is unknown on a genuine piece. The piece is false. The mate to it also is false.
- Opinions  
ANACS  
by Ept*



New England  
3d  
from ANACS

Envelope shows  
J F X

Mr. Harry B. McDaniel  
McDaniel Building  
Bettsville, Ohio

one only GUIDE BOOK  
MODERN WORLD COIN BOOK

n/c

WHITMAN PUBLISHING CO.  
6-27-61  
jam

# Bowers and Ruddy Galleries, Inc.

6922 Hollywood Blvd., Suite 600  
Los Angeles, California 90028

Telex: 69-1555 Photograde LSA  
Telephone: (213) 466-4595



March 9, 1976

Mr. William C. Blynn  
Box 321  
Hinckley, Ohio 44233

**Managing Directors:**

James F. Ruddy  
Nancy Ruddy  
Q. David Bowers

**Rare Coin Sales and Research:**  
*Bowers and Ruddy Galleries*

**Rare Coin Auction Sales:**  
*American Auction Association*

Dear Mr. Blynn:

I am sorry to say that I am returning to you herewith the so-called Massachusetts "NE threepence" (two specimens) and the silver band. As mentioned in our earlier correspondence, before beginning our own research here in detail we wanted to get clearance from the American Numismatic Association Certification Service.

A note received today from the ANACS, bearing their notation 8235, is hard to argue with. It said: "This is the third time we have had this piece and each time the evidence gets stronger against it. The punches wrong and the weights are wrong. The single piece (the one not attached to the bracelet) weighs slightly over 25 grains with the hole. A known ? authentic specimen in the Massachusetts Historical Society weighs 17.3 grains. The standard weight for this piece should be 18 grains, based on 72 grains to a shilling authorized. Your piece would have weighed even more if it did not have a hole. The frugal New Englanders would not have permitted this!"

So, although the piece gives every evidence of being early, the fact that it has been reviewed as such by ANACS would seem to preclude our handling it further.

ANACS has an open mind, and I know that you have quite a bit of homework on the subject--so my suggestion would be to keep in touch with either Mr. Fazzari or Mr. Hopkins there and advise them of any information which could possibly counteract the evidence. Should there be later developments in favor of the coin I would be pleased to know of them.

I will send a copy of this letter to ANACS so they will be aware of the situation.

I am pleased to have had the chance to see the items in question and only regret that they did not turn out to be authentic in the view of ANACS. They certainly are a numismatic mystery!

Sincerely yours,

Q. David Bowers

CC: ANACS

encls.

# Bowers and Ruddy Galleries, Inc.

6922 Hollywood Blvd., Suite 600  
Los Angeles, California 90028

Telex: 69-1555 Photograde LSA  
Telephone: (213) 466-4595



101

March 18, 1976

Mr. William C. Blynn  
Box 321  
Hinckley, Ohio 44233

Managing Directors:

James F. Ruddy  
Nancy Ruddy  
Q. David Bowers

Rare Coin Sales and Research:  
*Bowers and Ruddy Galleries*

Rare Coin Auction Sales:  
*American Auction Association*

Dear Mr. Blynn:

Thank you for your letter. I am pleased that the pieces were returned to you in good order.

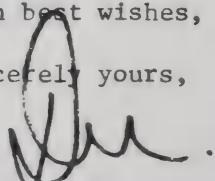
Concerning the Indian peace medals, I would be pleased to consider these for a future sale. These items may involve an amount of research, so the enclosed auction agreement at 20% does not specify a date. However, it would be my intention to include them in one of our autumn sales (it probably will not be possible to complete authentications in time for our June sale, the one we are working on now).

Concerning your NE pieces, please keep me posted as to any new developments which might arise on these. This is certainly a fascinating piece of numismatic history.

Someone who might be quite interested in learning about the entire situation would be Eric P. Newman of Edison Brothers Stores, 400 Washington Street, St. Louis, Missouri. As you may know, Eric Newman is an authority in the field of colonials and has done extensive research. If you see fit to write to him I would send him copies of all the correspondence that we have had with you, that the ANACS has had with you, and so on--so he can put all the evidence in front of him and perhaps give you some ideas. In any event Mr. Newman is a very fine gentleman and I am sure you will be treated accordingly.

With best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,



193

Box 321  
Hinckley, Ohio  
44233  
March 22, 1976

Walter Breen  
c/o FCI  
Albertson, LI.,  
New York

ref: your letter Mar. 19 and  
NE 3 P coins.

Dear Mr. Breen,

Thank you for your courteous reply to my inquiry.

I gather from your letter that you might be somewhat disturbed about not being consulted on this item in question; needless to say, so am I. I know you to be much touted as an expert in this field and that surely you would have to be one of the ANACS consultants. Now, I wonder just what I paid for to the ANACS if they didn't bring someone of your stature in in their quest to authenticate these pieces.

You allude to one of three choices that the ANACS could have made in their findings on these coins. It is my impression that the issue is "still open." They didn't say "not genuine" nor "genuine?" They have had these coins in their possession the better part of the last year and one half and yet refuse to say "genuine" or "not genuine" only just make assumptions which are easily countered. They admit the armband is "probably genuine" but insist the coins are in doubt. How could these coins be other than authentic and yet be on an silver item of such historical importance and great value on it's own, is a puzzle to me. Either it's all wrong or all right. This item was plowed-up, as is, in Ipswich, Mass. and few from who are familiar with the part that area played in Mass. Bay Colony History.

I must say here that it was not necessarily my intent to "drag you in" on this, as you put it, but only to see to what extent the ANACS went in their efforts to authenticate this in my Behalf. However, now perhaps dragging you in, if you want to be, might be the thing to do to get these recognized as they should be. These coins are genuine and now with the documentation I've gleaned from Museums and Librarys, on my own, I can virtually prove that with the help of someone who truly knows most of what little is known on this type of coin.

You'll want to know, I'm sure, at this point just who those that I know of have been involved to one degree or another on this item. To begin with, Bowers & Ruddy have held this item and in fact turned it over this last time to the ANACS. Q. David Bowers says "they certainly are a numismatic mystery" and "a fascinating piece of numismatic history and "the piece gives every evidence of being early." He said this even after ANACS refused to "bless them."

Before B & R had them, I gave them to the ANACS myself. They said on one count to "regard the authenticity of the coins and the authenticity of the bracelet as two separate matters" and on the other count "they are satisfied the coins are false and attached in modern times." Yet later, after B & R turned them over to them they said "this is the third time we have had this piece and each time the evidence gets stronger against it."

Also, the Peabody Museum, who have not personally examined the piece, but say from examining the photos of it that "You may have a very important historical item." And, "we are very interested in researching the item and having it here on display."

I was committed to offering Bowers & Ruddy the item or rather just one coin for auction if authenticated in return for their efforts at authenticating it for me. All they did, though, was turn it over again to the ANACS who had already refused to Certify it. They evidently feel that if the ANACS won't "bless" these coins there is no sense in going elsewhere in the quest. They did, however, recommend someone I could turn to (not you). They would like it back if I can come-up with something else important on it that would warrant looking into it again by the ANACS.

I really didn't want any of the item sold or auctioned off and I expressed that to B & R, but on the other hand did want these coins authenticated as the numismatic community should know of them if they exist and are genuine. I'm a collector and it would be difficult to part with the only two collectable ME 3 P coins known to exist (of course, the one in the Mass. Hist. Soc. Museum, if authentic, is non-collectable).

N.W. I feel the establishment of these coins once and for all as genuine by someone who is qualified is more important than risking the possibility of doing a little "toe stepping on" and do not wish to let things just hang where they are. Therefore, I've enclosed photographs of this item for your preliminary examination and if you do wish to become involved on a permanent basis, I will have all the papers on documentation and communications run off (there is considerable) and forward them to you. If you do not want to come in on this, please return the photos.

I'm sure you won't want to cut any time in on this, except in a preliminary examination of the papers, for just an intellectual exercise. So, I would have to know at some point what will be involved there. Also, I have offered the bracelet to the Peabody Museum, if they can adequately insure it while on display, but haven't heard from them yet. If they can authenticate the bracelet, it would be difficult to deny the coins. You probably wouldn't need the bracelet, anyway.

I shall be awaiting your thoughts on this situation thus far.

Sincerely,

William C. Flynn

P.S. Yes, same Buzzards and they did return. Please accept the enclosed bumper-sticker as a gift to your kids. They might get a kick out of it. WCB

187

c/o FCI  
200 I.U.Willets Road  
Albertson, LI, NY 11507

Dear Mr. Blynn,

In this ~~case~~, the documentation ~~x~~will not prove anything whatever. Authentication has to be contingent on the physical properties of the coins and on the die work.

I have been kept far too busy by the press of deadlines where I work to think further about getting involved with your controversial threepence pieces. If you are in a hurry, I recommend that you try Eric Newman, as you suggested. He is certainly less harried by deadlines than I am; he is obviously competent in this area; and he is at least equally suspicious. However, by all means try to get him to say whether he believes that your coins are (a) authentic, (b) counterfeits of the 1650's--70's period, (c) 19th or (d) 20th century imitations. This distinction will be very important.

Needless to say, I will be extremely interested to hear what he has to say about them.

Best,

*Walter Breen*

*Trustees*

AUGUSTUS PEABODY LORING  
*President*  
RUSSELL WALLACE KNIGHT  
*Vice President*  
WALTER MUIR WHITEHILL  
*Secretary*  
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ERNEST STANLEY DODGE  
*Director*

Peabody Museum, East India Square, Salem, Massachusetts 01970

April 6, 1977

Mr. William C. Blynn  
Box 321  
Hinckley, Ohio 44233

Dear Mr. Blynn:

I am sorry to have taken so long with our research regarding the Timothy White bracelet.

Myself, and the Conservation Laboratory at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, have devoted much time to this project and a full report will be forthcoming. I have sent the bracelet to you under a separate mailing and it should reach you shortly, if it has not already done so.

It appears from laboratory tests that the gold content of the bracelet is too little for it to be 17th century silver. Therefore, it must have been made at a later time, probably in the 18th century, but most likely later utilizing 18th century silver. I can understand your disappointment because I too was somewhat disappointed in the results.

You will be hearing from me shortly with further details.

Yours sincerely,

Peter J. Fetchko  
Curator of Ethnology

Assistant Director of the Peabody Museum

PJF:ga

108



NUMISMATISTS  
AUCTIONEERS · APPRAISERS

*Stack's*

COINS · MEDALS · PAPER MONEY

123 WEST 57<sup>TH</sup> STREET · NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019 · TEL 212/582-2580

July 27, 1978

Mr. William C. Blynn  
Box 321  
Hinckley, Ohio 44233

Dear Mr. Blynn:

We are in receipt of your letter with photos enclosed herewith.

In our opinion, the coin is extremely suspect. In fact, I doubt that it is genuine. The style of punches and general make-up lead me to this conclusion.

Hoping this is the information you desire, I remain

Sincerely yours,

STACK'S  
*Norman Stack*  
Norman Stack *IK*

NS/ir  
enc.



W.C. Blynn  
Box 321  
Hinckley, Ohio  
44223  
Jan. 7, 1980

W.E. (Doc) Martt  
3241 Main Street  
Emmett, Mich.  
48022

Dear Doc,

I do hope this letter finds you alive, kicking, well and your usual cantankerous self. If it does, I just cannot suppress the compulsion to inform you that after many years of time and, worst of all, much money the Indian arm bracelet with dangles you once owned has been conclusively established to be counterfeit.

So, Harry McDaniel did not clean you of it as you thought, but rather you cleaned him after which he cleaned me. To be honest, I don't believe either of you intentionally did that to anyone, except possibly for Harry as I believe he found out they were false before selling them to me. The one that got us all was the little old man in Irswitch on the farm where you were supposed to have got it; he probably made it in his basement!

Anyway, no hard feelings. Just disappointment as it is really too bad that it couldn't have been the important find it should have been instead of "sucker bait" to all of us.

I don't expect you to respond to this letter, but thought you should know rather than go the rest of your life feeling the "big one" got away from you.

Good luck.

Sincerely,

William C. Blynn

1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio  
44233  
May 22, 1980

Eric P. Newman,  
Numismatist  
6450 Cecil Ave.,  
St. Louis, Mo. 63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

Enclosed find a photograph of an 1843 (round) struck medal of PIERRE CHOUTEAU JR. & CO., bust of Van Buren to r., reversrse, crossed tomahawk and peace pipe, clasped hands, PEACE / AND / FRIENDSHIP, date, dies by Benj. Mead of St. Louis. These are separate obv. and reverse galvanos (or electrototype shells) made from the original dies of this 92mm. medal, which have been lead filled. "EB" in script has been engraved upon the lead surface(s) at the tip of both the obv. and rev. filled galvanos, just below the "die prong." These were once the property of the U.S. Gov't. but, are now legally mine.

Due to their particular significance to St. Louis (Chouteau history) and their extreme rarity, do you think you could find a buyer for these? I believe the Missouri Historical Society has an identical pair, but perhaps some other local museum, collector or member of the Chouteau family might be interested.

These are not modern made and are in perfect condition with a unique feature of two diebreaks on the obverse. All known surviving which are of pewter are in a very poor state of preservation, as you no doubt know. I wish to clear the amount of \$1400 on these. If you do not wish to handle them, I shall be running a classified ad in the St. Louis newspapers. Let me know, please.

Also, enclosed find photographs of two (2) NE 3 pence coins I own. From a preliminary examination of these photos, do you feel they warrent further investigation by you, the last word in Colonial coinage? If not, could you please send me photos of your NE 6 pence coin so that I can make my own comparison? I cannot get same anywhere, including the ANA or ANS. I suspect the same die would have been used on both types of coins. My coins were found on a Indian bracelet (still have) which marked TD for Timothy Dwight, relative and apprentice to John Hull!

I have enclosed a SASE for your reply and the return of my photos. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

William C. Lynn

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

May 28, 1980

Mr. William C. Blynn  
1929 Ledge Road  
Winckley, Ohio 44233

Dear Mr. Blynn:

As to the two New England threepence Massachusetts coins, I studied these when they were on the arm band 15 or 20 years ago and then reviewed the matter within the last couple of years. I realize your disappointment in the opinions which have been furnished you, but I am not in a position to devote any more time to the problem unless there are some new facts. The possible die linkages were studied previously. What I have never learned is how this arm band came into your possession, whether you bought it or inherited it, but I know you have had it a very long time.

I am returning your pictures as you suggested.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

jah

Encls.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

May 28, 1980

Mr. William C. Blynn  
1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio 44233

Dear Mr. Blynn:

The copper electrotype shells of the Pierre Chouteau Jr. & Co. medal filled with pot metal about which you asked in your letter of May 22, 1980 were probably made at the U. S. Mint in my opinion. Several years ago I examined the example at the Missouri Historical Society which was given to them by the Chouteau family. It is as you state more or less the same as yours. I wrote an opinion for the Missouri Historical Society stating it was an electrotype.

We are non-commercial and, therefore, would not participate in a sale of the items. If we knew of a customer we would be glad to let you know. Naturally we would like to have them for our own collection and if you would wish to give them to us and obtain an income tax deduction on a valuation you could support, that might be helpful to you. We would only be interested in buying them for a nominal amount.

I am sorry we cannot be more helpful to you.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

jah

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

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1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio 44233

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Eric P. Newman

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6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

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1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio 44233

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I am returning your pictures as you suggested.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

jah

Encls.

1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio  
44233  
June 7, 1980

Eric P. Newman,  
Numismatist  
ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY  
6450 Cecil Ave., St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

Thank you very much for your two letters of May 28.

With regards to the Pierre Chouteau Jr. & Mo. medal, it is John Ford, Jr.'s opinion (from personal examination) that this is a struck galvanos or electrotype made from original dies. Did you notice the marked difference between Belden's plate 66 and Prucha's plate 62 with regards to the die creases? I cannot imagine how it could have come about that my example would have both of them on the obverse surface. The outstanding feature with my medal is, of course, that the surfaces are Gem perfect. I am giving serious consideration to a donation to your foundation if we can agree to a proper valuation; even a possible trade might we worked out. I am interested in antique firearms.

And, in regards to the two NE 3 pence Mass. coins, consider my proposal, herein, please. I don't know how one would go about conclusively authenticating these coins or determining them positively false besides through experience first hand with other pieces or "eyeballing" through a powerful scope. I do suppose a comparison of the silver and gold content with, say, a shilling of the same type might be revealing. I have much circumstantial evidence that I'm sure you aren't aware of, but that would be important only if the coins were proven scientifically to be true. And, the documents I have with reference to how this item was originally obtained makes a fascinating story, but means little unless the coins are authenticated. These coins have really been around through the years in an effort to authenticate them, but no one seems to want to stick his neck-out, even if not sure, and I can't blame them as reputations are at stake. And, a sure-fire means of authenticating them seems to be unavailable, with "opinions" being all that one can get. I even get the impression from your letter that you, probably the most knowledgeable of them all in this field, are not yet sure one way or the other.

So, let me make you this proposition: if you will tackle them once more, in return for your efforts gratis to me I will donate one of the pieces (my choice) to your foundation if you are able to conclusively confirm their genuiness this time. I understand that false is false and if that be absolutely the case, well, I shall finally give up the cause once and for all.

If you feel that the above would be a further waste of your time, please just let me know and thank you anyway.

Sincerely,  
*William C. Flynn*  
William C. Flynn

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

June 10, 1980

Mr. William C. Blynn  
1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio 44233

Dear Mr. Blynn:

With regard to your Pierre Chouteau Jr. & Co. Indian item, I realized that the surfaces are quite perfect and that was the basis on which I stated that I felt they were made at the U.S. Mint.

Our museum would be very grateful to have you donate the items to us. They will be in St. Louis then where they will be most appreciated. This foundation will enter on its books any reasonable valuation which you designate for such a gift. Their choice condition, their age, their importance, and their rarity (even though they are shells) make them most desirable and very valuable. The decision is yours.

Thank you for your June 6, 1980 letter considering such a donation and we hope it will come to pass.

Sincerely yours,

Eric P. Newman

jah

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

June 10, 1980

Mr. William C. Blynn  
1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio 44233

Dear Mr. Blynn:

Your June 7, 1980 letter about your 3d NE pieces shows how deeply concerned you are to obtain a proper determination as to the status of those armband coins. All anyone can give you is an opinion unless there is a positive matter which proves conclusively the status one way or another. I have this problem often when items are submitted. In the April 1979 Numismatist I wrote up a NE 12d which I tried to show was bad because it was a superb copy of a genuine coin with dirt casting on it. When one finds such facts it is easy.

Apparently you know much more about the origin of the coins and the band. I have located the 1961 file on the matter and realize how many years you worked on the project. Have the coins ever been taken off the band? It proves nothing to check the metal and find it is okay because proper old coins are usually used for forgeries. Only if you find a trace of chromium, aluminum, etc., in silver can you reject pieces on that ground. The links are soldered solid as I recall.

We cannot give an opinion on the basis you suggest. If you wish to take both coins off the armband and want me to restudy them, I might do that but I first want all the facts of origin and all the opinions of others you have received on the coins. I do this work without compensation and without bias as you may realize. You feel I am not positive of their falsity and I am glad that you are right. It is my opinion, based upon what I have determined. I'm not afraid to give difficult opinions as any reputation one acquires stands on what others think of difficult opinions. Easy opinions are nothing.

On occasion I have changed an opinion when new facts came to my attention, or new conclusions can be reached. It is hard to prove a negative as to a coin and particularly when one has no genuine piece to compare them to.

I write separate letters on each subject and that is the reason for two letters.

Sincerely yours,

Eric P. Newman

jah

1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio  
44233  
June 28, 1980

Eric P. Newman  
ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY  
6450 Cecil Ave.,  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

ref: your letter of June 10, 1980

Dear Mr. Newman,

I'm very hesitant at submitting all the enclosed correspondence, etc. for you to examine, because its going to be rather a time consuming mess for you to work with and some of the papers are rag-tag. And, that is not all; even some of the earlier papers are missing, etc. But, perhaps you can come to some conclusion as to whether you wish to restudy the coins or not. And, besides you did say in your letter that you would want all the facts of origin and all the opinions of others.

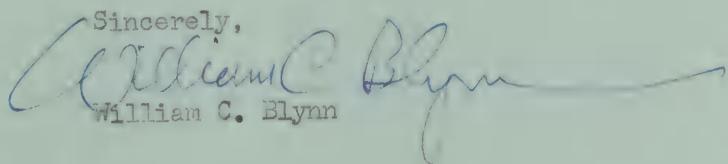
Yes, the coins have been removed from the bracelet, but not snipped at the solder point and if you'll notice the Peabody Museum had the bracelet analized and their is no mention of chromium, aluminum, etc. as being in the metal.

Notice the first document enclosed is a hand written letter by the man that originally discovered the item and where.

There is only one authentic Dwight made item in existence; are there any unquestioned authentic NE 3d pieces you know of?

There are 110 pieces of literature enclosed and unless you would want some of it I would appreciate it if you would eventually return it all as some are original letters. I will be glad to pay the post if you will envoice me.

Regards.

Sincerely,  
  
William C. Lynn

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

July 23, 1980

Mr. William C. Blynn  
1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio 44233

Dear Mr. Blynn:

I carefully read the documents sent to me with your June 28, 1980 letter. As you realize they do not throw much additional light on the situation. As I previously said, I realize how much effort you have put into your study of the items, but as it stands I think the change in position is not justifiable.

I am still hoping that it might be worthwhile for you to donate the Chouteau medal electros to this organization. Don't you think that would be a nice thing to do and very well worth your while.

All of the papers you forwarded are being returned herewith.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

jah

Encls.

1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio  
44233  
July 28, 1980

Eric P. Newman  
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Society  
6450 Cecil Ave.  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

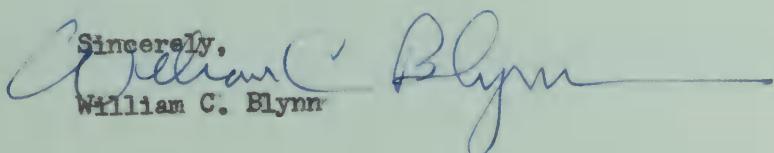
Dear Mr. Newman,

Thank you for your nice letter of July 23, 1980. And, thank you for devoting your valuable time to my documents and returning them to me, along with your current thoughts on the matter of the NE 3 d "coins." Guess I'll give up now, permanently, on trying to establish their authenticity. If you know of any individual who would want them for a reasonable price or trade and wants to take-up where I'm leaving off or any Institution who would want them as a gift and doesn't mind having such a hard to determine item, please let me know. Too bad their isn't a positive scientific method for determining their authenticity. This is either a fantastic fake (and, apparently the only copy known that includes such a bracelet and maker's mark) or one of the top numismatic mysteries of this century.

Also, thank you for your persuasive dialogue with reference to the Pierre Chouteau Jr. & Co. Electros. I cannot, frankly, see how I could gain any financial benefits for my particular situation being just on the verge of retirement. If I were to donate them to your Society, it would be only a gesture, whereas if I were to sell or auction them it would offset some of my losses due to my apparent "poor selections." I will give the matter much more thought before I decide what to finally do.

By-the-way, your opinion that the Chouteau medal electros are probably U.S. Mint made can be strengthened now by the knowledge that these pieces of mine were once U.S. Gov't. property, but are now legally owned by me. That fact is verifiable by evidence I retain.

Regards.

Sincerely,  
  
William C. Flynn

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

August 8, 1980

Mr. William C. Blynn  
1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio 44233

Dear Mr. Blynn:

In your July 28, 1980 letter to me you asked if I know of any institution which would want the arm band and coins as a gift and would continue to try to work on them. I should think that we have shown you that we will do that and that you might want to give them to us. If you don't need the tax deduction you can give them to us on condition that if they turn out to be genuine you would receive back one of the coins or the value of one of the coins.

We have been completely sincere with you at all times and want to be completely ethical about all of this.

If you need a tax deduction and can use it, then you should give the arm band and coins without any condition and you can have them valued on the basis of their questionable authenticity.

Why don't you get that part out of the way and then decide on what you might wish to do on the Chouteau medal electros.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

jah

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

August 8, 1980

Mr. William C. Blynn  
1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio 44233

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Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

jah

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

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1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio 44233

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Why don't you get that part out of the way and then decide on what you might wish to do on the Chouteau medal electros.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

jah

1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio  
44233  
August 12, 1980

Eric P. Newman  
NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY  
6450 Cecil Ave.,  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

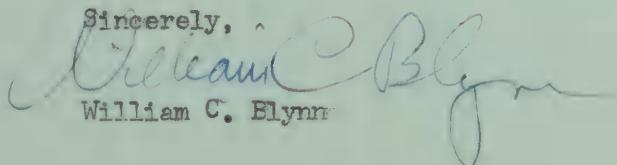
I am still considering doing with the Chouteau medal électros what I am in the process of doing with the NE 3 d grouping, that is gift them to your Society. At your suggestion, I shall get the NE 3 d items out of the way first, and then try to come to some decision on the electros.

As far as I'm concerned, we do have a little different situation with the Chouteaus than with the coins. And, that's what makes the decision more difficult. Your opinion on the medal electros agrees with mine and I consider them authenticated and no gamble exists with them. It is, therefore, tempting to have them auctioned. Yet, I agree that they belong in St. Louis.

A deciding factor might be what your Society feels they can log in the way of a market value for tax purposes. Again, I could either gift them to one of my sons or have the the tax deduction go into my estate for the future. If gifted to one of my sons, he would, of course, then give them to you.

I know of no precedence that has been set in the market place or at auction on such an item, do you? Even though they are medals rather than coins they do hold special significance to St. Louis and should be more valuable to a purchaser there, someone like your Society should they be able to purchase them, than even on the open market at auction. I know your Society cannot purchase them, but if you could what market/tax evaluation do you think they could fetch? I know I can rely upon your sincerity and ethics when I present that question to you.

Please, let me know your thoughts on the above. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
  
William C. Elynn

1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio  
44233  
Aug. 12, 1980

Eric P. Newman  
ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY  
6450 Cecil Ave.,  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

Thank you for your nice letter of August 8, 1980.

I have never entertained any second thoughts as to your or your foundation's sincerity or ethics. I am aware of just how well you both are thought of in Numismatic circles. And, I'm very pleased that you have decided to ask me for the NE 3 d grouping, as well as the Chouteau halves.

I believe that if anyone can determine the status of the coins, one-way-or-the-other, you people can alone above all others. So, you should definately have them now that I've given up the quest once and for all. And, you should have a completely free hand, so I'm going to give them to the Society without any condition and let them be valued on the basis of their questionable authenticity. You may have the Indian Arm Bracelet and Two 3 d Dangles with no strings attached if the question of their value with their status yet to be completed, can be agreed upon by us both.

I am aware of how very valuable to history and Numismatics these items might be as well as how extremely valuable they'll be monetarily, should a positive determination be made. So, at their present status as a questionable, but possible or probable entity, just how much shall we record their value to be? I'm going to let the Society be the sole judge on that, as, after all you'll have to support your reasons should they turn out to be false. Should they be correct, and I do hope they will for you, your Institution will indeed be most fortunate and can do what you will with them, but will have a very valuable item Au Graxis. I do, of course, have a figure in mind, but I shall not let it influence you and will accept whatever figure you'll be comfortable with both in reality and fairness.

I understand I can't derive much financial gain from this transaction, until I die, so I might gift them to one of my Sons or someone else who will give them to you in their name, if that's alright. If not, no matter as I want you to have them anyway. I feel they are correct or I wouldn't have put so much money into the quest. So, I'd like to see my feelings confirmed rather than have them sit in my safe deposit. They will be shipped after I hear from you next.

William C. Blym

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

August 15, 1980

Mr. William C. Blynn  
1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio 44233

Dear Mr. Blynn:

As to the bracelet and the two 3d pieces, I am pleased you have agreed to give them to us. We appreciate your thoughtfulness and kindness.

I will ask Kenneth Bressett to value the pieces as unauthenticated for you. He is well able to do this and is completely fair.

The gift should be completed first by sending them to us. Then the items can be sent to him for examination and appraisal. There can be no justifiable criticism if it is handled in that way.

I hope that procedure satisfies you. Please send them to us at P. O. Box 14020, St. Louis, MO 63178 and we will send you an appropriate acknowledgement.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

jah

1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio  
44233  
August 22, 1980

Eric P. Newman  
ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY  
6450 Cecil Ave.,  
St. Louis, Mo. 63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

With reference to your August 15 letter, may I please revert back to your "ugust 8 letter and the several options that you outlined therein that I can take on the donation of the NE 3 d coins and Indian bracelet?

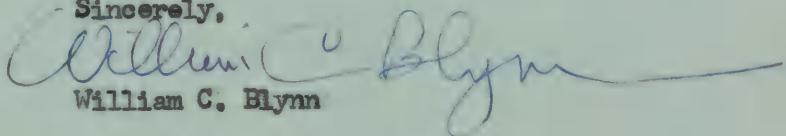
In your letter of that date you say "on the condition that if they turn out to be genuine you would receive back one of the coins or the value of one of the coins." Upon further consideration, may I rather than gift all the above items in sum total for tax deduction instead give them to you under the above condition? As long as I really don't have much use for a tax deduction and as long as this opportunity exists for further study to be done on them I shouldn't sell the items short before all the returns are in.

Should the coins prove genuine the donation of one of them would offset the sale of the other, should I decide to do that, anyway. If they should determine to be false I still loose little as I cannot use the tax deduction. Even then as counterfeits they should have some value, I believe. So, I believe this option you present is the preferable one after all.

If the above is still alright with you and you do not mind my making this change of offer before things went any further and if, should the coins indeed prove genuine, I can choose the coin to be returned unless you decide to send the value of one of them, they are still yours to continue work on to a final determination.

In the event the above is satisfactory, I am enclosing the items and shall await either your acknowledgement or your counter proposal.

Sincerely,

  
William C. Blynn

P.S. On Aug. 12 I wrote two letters with the other referring to the Chouteau Electro. Did it slip by you? Thank you. W.C.B.

[8/26/43]

I looked through  
old files for Blynn  
& McDaniel. There  
is nothing in files  
here.

ph

August 26, 1980

Mr. William C. Blynn  
1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio 44233

Dear Mr. Blynn:

Your letter dated August 22, 1980 arrived in good shape with the silver arm band and the two holed NE 3d pieces formerly linked onto it. We are pleased that you have carried out your gift on a basis that will satisfy you. That is why we gave you alternate suggestions to choose from.

To confirm the gift arrangement, we wish to make it clear that the arm band has been given to us without condition. The two NE 3d pieces are given to us with the condition that if they are determined to be genuine, then you personally may select one of them as your property with our option to buy that one at a price determined by independent appraisal. The one not so selected shall then become our property without condition. So long as no determination of genuineness is made the coins shall remain in our possession and as our property subject to the above condition. If a determination of falsity is made in the future the two NE 3d pieces will remain our property without further condition.

We shall not be responsible for the loss or disappearance of the coins if we treat them in the same manner as our other property when studying them, sending them to others, exhibiting them, etc., We shall not be obligated to seek their authentication by any time limitations or by any specific requirements. Naturally after all the work which has been done in the past, we would like to see a full determination. We believe we should try to locate and examine the other NE 3d pieces which are supposed to exist in order to make a comparison.

We believe you should furnish us with the date and details of acquisition by you. Who was Harry B. McDaniel? We would also like to know if the silver welds on the arm band ends and on the links were there when you acquired the pieces. If not, who soldered them together. We presume you authorized the removal of the coins from the links.

Thank you again for choosing us to own the items as above outlined.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

jah

for must be  
file at home

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

August 26, 1980

Mr. William C. Blynn  
1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio 44233

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Thank you again for choosing us to own the items as above outlined.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

jah

August 26, 1980

Mr. William C. Blynn  
1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio 44233

Dear Mr. Blynn:

We wanted to clear up the coin and arm band matter before going into the Chouteau matter.

Now that we have accepted the arm band and 3d pieces with complex conditions, we believe you should give the electros to us without condition. They belong in St. Louis as you said. We will get an appraisal of them from a qualified person if you wish. You could also get your own appraisal. We cannot negotiate with you on that value, but we will accept whatever value is reasonably arrived at. Then you will have a tax deduction for that sum now. Your major financial gain will result if the NK 3d pieces turn out to be genuine.

The decision is yours and you can rely on our ethical devotion to the public good.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

jah

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

August 26, 1980

Mr. William C. Blynn  
1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio 44233

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The decision is yours and you can rely on our ethical devotion to the public good.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

jah

1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio  
44233  
August 30, 1980

Eric P. Newman  
ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY  
6450 Cecil Ave.,  
St. Louis, Mo. 63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

Being that this is the first time that I've become involved in an institutional donation, I do hope that you'll be indulgent with me while I make sure we have all the conditions correct and on a basis that will satisfy us both. A lesson to be learned for me, through this experience, is that contracting via mail exclusively is very difficult due to the time lag between mailings.

For example, it was my assumption that if I were to donate one coin, should they both determine to be genuine, I would naturally get, in addition the coin of my choice back, the armband back, also. Now it appears that I might, through some misunderstanding, have given away that item as well as one coin. And, that I wouldn't want to do at all, if I have a choice. And, another assumption was that should the two NE 3d coins determine to be false you would return everything. But, you state that you get to keep everything, the way I understand it, in that event. Under these conditions I surely would be further ahead to try to make use of a tax deduction, no?

I've searched through our letters of correspondence and until your letter of Aug. 26 see no mention explicitly of some of these conditions. Am I wrong? Enlighten me if I am, please.

Maybe we can clear up the matter so that you can get on with your determination unhampered. You have now the items and I want you to retain them. I won't hold you to any time limitations or specific requirements. But, I do want to relax, feeling I'm getting a fair shake on their distribution, both before and after their determination. I shall, therefore, attempt to make myself perfectly clear on how I prefer to give them to your institution.

First, you may send them to Kenneth Bressett to value as unauthenticated. I will accept his fair offer for tax deduction if it's anywhere near my ideas of that value in its present status. I will probably use my son's names, jointly.

Or, you may have one coin, of my choice, as a gift if they are determined to be genuine. I will then receive back the other coin, or its market value, and the bracelet. If the coins should determine to be false, I will get both of the coins and the bracelet back.

I could live with any of the above alternatives.

As to Harry B. McDaniel. He is a good friend of mine of many years. He devoted his lifetime to collecting American Indian items, including Jesuit silver, and housing it in his private museum. He considered the bracelet and coins to be his most important acquisition. I pestered him to sell it to me for some time until he finally did. He got it from "Dec" Martt, his close friend who was also an "Indian" collector of many years. He had many important relics to his credit. He personally bought the arm band with dangles from the farmer who plowed it up in Ipswich, Mass. with other items. The farmer had no idea what he had. "Dec" didn't know the dangles were coins and swapped it to McDaniel. The item is third-hand to me, but I have never been able to fault these two men or the items history.

The silver solder welds on the band and links are original to it and, I'm positive, proper. And, I believe therein lies an important key. That is why I used precaution when I removed the coins in order to send the bracelet and coins to various destinations for authentication.

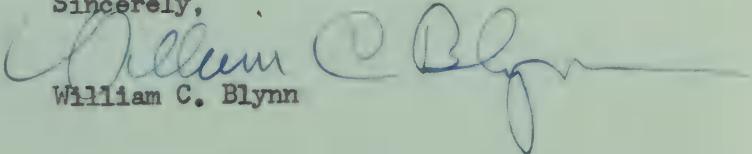
Timothy Dwight, the maker of the item, was an apprentice to John Hull, Mint master and related to him by marriage. Dwight lived a short while and only one item remains of his Silversmithing, except for possibly this item. Dwight's father Cp't. Dwight was appointed by Mass. Colony to treat with the Indians and died fighting them. Dwight probably made this bracelet for his father while an early apprentice which would account for it's relative simplicity. Hull probably gave him the coins for dangles being that the other NE coinage was dispensed with after only a few months of use. Dwight's touchmark resembles Hull's closely.

Again, I would prefer not to go the tax deduction route. I have complete faith in the coins and in you and would rather ride along with them. But, if I can't get anything back we can pursue along that line.

I hope you will accept the above in the vain that I offer it. Now is the time for clarity, not assumptions, to preserve our mutual good-will.

I shall keep the Chouteau Electros an open issue for a little while, yet. If I don't need a tax deduction, I certainly won't need a double one. But, they will be yours if it is at all practicle to give them.

Sincerely,

  
William C. Lynn

September 15, 1980

Mr. William C. Blynn  
1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio 44233

Dear Mr. Blynn:

In going through my father's mail, I came across your letter of August 30. I wanted to let you know that Eric is in China through the end of this month, and I will be bringing your letter to his attention as soon as he returns.

Sincerely,

Andrew E. Newman

vg



1000 INSURANCE EXCHANGE BUILDING • DES MOINES, IOWA 50309  
(515) 243-0129 • 800-247-5335

January 6, 1981

Eric Newman  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Eric:

Thank you for sending the fractional currency. I appreciate your considering Kagin's, and I am having Bob Rubel prepare a check as you requested.

You asked about the N.E. three pence. I have checked my records and found that in 1958 the librarian at Yale told me that the piece had been missing from their collection since about 1945-50 and, possibly since 1930. He was careful to state that the piece was missing, not stolen.

Sincerely,

*Ken*

Kenneth E. Bressett  
Vice President - Numismatics

mes

1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio  
44233  
July 1, 1981

Eric P. Newman  
ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY  
6450 Cecil Ave.,  
St. Louis, Mo. 63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

Being that it is approximately one year since I last heard from you with regards to my NE 3 pence "dangles" and Indian Arm Bracelet (your letter of August 26, 1980) I was wondering if I might have an update on the progress that has been made towards their authentication or at least confirmation that you are still actively working on them?

Also, I have been awaiting patiently a response to my letter of August 30, 1980. I cannot give the lot up if they should be adjudged false by you and I cannot give the bracelet up under any circumstances as I outline in my letter of that date. So, I want verification that you understand those stipulations as those were my conditions throughout our association of last year and I was trying to make those points clear.

May I please hear from you?

Sincerely,

William C. Blynn

P.S. I am retired now and have no use for a tax credit. In light of that, the above stipulations become even more important to me and I want to relax in the knowledge that we are in total mutual agreement before any determination is made one way or the other. WCB

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

July 14, 1981

Mr. William C. Blynn  
1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio 44233

Dear Mr. Blynn:

The amount of time I have used in correspondence with you is substantial as you realize. I am going on my summer vacation now and when I return I will try to give the matter further thought.

Sincerely yours,

Eric P. Newman

jah

1929 Ledge Road  
Hickley, Ohio  
44233  
October 12, 1981

Eric P. Newman  
ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY  
6450 Cecil Ave.  
St. Louis, Mo. 63105

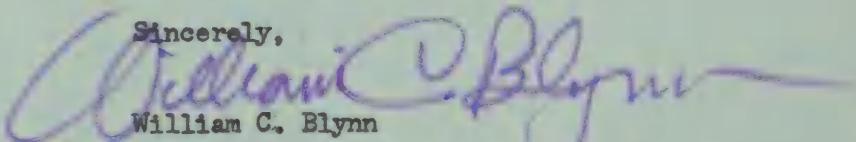
Dear Mr. Newman,

It has been three months since your letter of July 14, 1981. Since you have not contacted me yet as you indicated you would, it is probably safe to conclude that although you are returned from your vacation you are still faced with indecision as to how to comply with my wishes with regards to my TD Indian Bracelet with two NE 3d Coins. Perhaps I can help you along those lines.

To the best of my knowledge, you've not made a decision about authenticity either way yet. So, why not just return the bracelet and two coins to me where they'll remain an unknown and be enjoyed by me as such. I know a decision of such great importance is most difficult and I'll surely understand your hesitancy to make one.

Two things I cannot understand, however, is why you would have to keep the bracelet if you determine the coins to be correct or why you should keep everything if you determine the coins to be false. It is my opinion that the donation of one coin (if genuine) to your Society would be more than generous of me and would be sufficient.

In anycase, whatever you decide to do I would like to know where we stand in mutual agreement as soon as possible. I am quickly becoming "up-tight" about the whole matter.

Sincerely,  
  
William C. Blynn

P.S. The discovery of these two coins (if authenticated) is of such great import to historians and collectors that it far overshadows any minor disagreement we are having, as I'm sure you realize. So, if your hesitation is not so much in the actual determination of the coins, but rather in how best to comply with my stipulations I hope that common sense will prevail so that you can continue on to a final determination while putting my mind at ease at the same time. W.C.B.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

October 22, 1981

Mr. William C. Blynn  
1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio 44233

Dear Mr. Blynn:

Your letter of October 12, 1981 arrived when I was a witness in a long trial of a business matter.

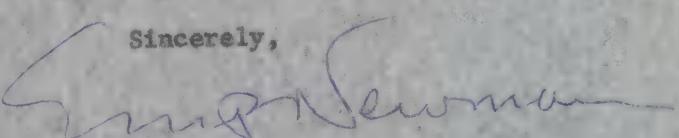
I don't want you to be "up tight" or concerned about your arm band and coins. I thought we had reached an understanding, but you felt we had not.

I have always told you I felt that the coins were not genuine, but I was willing to work on them further to see if there was any basis to change my opinion. I know how important all this is to you and to numismatic history if the pieces are genuine. I know how unimportant it all is if the pieces are false. You have no idea how difficult the work is to determine this matter conclusively.

Let us return the bracelet and one coin so that we can work on the other when we can. I conclude that you feel we should own the other coin.

I think this plan is common sense. Do you?

Sincerely,

  
Eric P. Newman

jah

*Blynn*

1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio  
44233  
October 28, 1981

Eric P. Newman  
ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY  
6450 Cecil Ave.,  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

Thank you very much for your nice letter of October 22, 1981 and for being so patient and understanding with me. I can appreciate how extremely busy you must be with the many demands placed upon you and truly dislike being a bother. But, if I could just get the full understanding between us I desire I could then let you continue the matter of the coins to a conclusion at your own pace.

You stated in your last letter that you always told me you felt the coins were not genuine, but were willing to work on them to see if there was any basis to change your opinion. I guess I hadn't realized you had a rather negative opinion prior to now and instead was depending upon what you said in your letter of June 10, 1980 in paragraph three "not positive of thier falsity." No matter, you have the coins now, so why not just continue on with the adventure? Truly, as you said, its all quite unimportant if the pieces are false and that's a fact! But, I don't think that'll be the case in the end and that's not just wishful thinking on my part. The circumstantial evidence that I've been associated with while trying over the years to obtain a proper determination points to a positive conclusion.

I don't believe I told you that of all the fine Indian artifacts including medals and amulets that Harry McDaniel had in his museum collection over the years he considered the item in question his finest item. And, he knew well the individual he obtained it from. Nor did I tell you that I had also obtained the Pierre Chouteau Jr. & Co. Indian Peace Medal electros from him (verifiable) and you know what a fine item that is.

If you could just assure me that 1. you will continue to give the item your unbiased attention as you study them 2. that if determined correct I'll get the coin of my choice back or its fair retail market value 3. that in addition to stipulation number two I'll get the bracelet back or fair retail value for that 4. that if the coins are determined false by you I'll get the two coins and the bracelet back.

If you feel you can make the above assurances I shall continue to let you study the coins for a reasonable period of time so that you can make your determination unhampered by a time limit.

If you'd prefer to retain only one coin and return the bracelet now and one coin of my choice while you continue to study the other coin that'll be alright. However, I'd want the other coin back, also, if it determines to be false later. Wouldn't it be better to just retain everything, rather than split things up, and continue their study while in the meantime assuring me that the stipulations put forth in this letter will be respected? This makes good common sense to me, also. If you can do that we shall have a full mutual understanding while the cards fall as they may.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours truly,

*William C. Blynn*  
William C. Blynn

1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio  
44233  
August 1, 1983

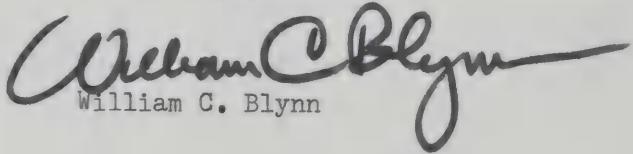
ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY  
6450 Cecil Ave.,  
St. Louis, Missouri  
63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

We have now reached the three year point since I sent you my NE 3d coins and TD Indian bracelet. You may have all the time you need in which to study them, of course, but I was wondering if you can tell me if you have made any progress of an encouraging nature towards a determination yet?

Thank you.

Yours truly,

  
William C. Blynn

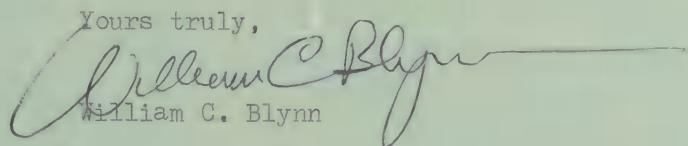
1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio  
44233  
Sep't. 29, 1983

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY  
6450 Cecil Ave.  
St. Louis, Missouri  
63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

Two months ago (August 1) I wrote you to remind you that it has been now three years since I sent you my NE 3d coins and TD Indian bracelet and that although you may have all the time you need to make a determination on them I was wondering if you have any encouraging words regarding them at this time. Since I haven't heard from you since writing that letter I'm wondering if it ever reached you or was brought to your attention.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours truly,  
  
William C. Blynn

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

October 4, 1983

Mr. William C. Blynn  
1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio 44233

Dear Mr. Blynn:

The many new techniques in forgery detection and the new historical findings concerning New England coins has not as yet shed any new light on the pieces you sent me for consideration.

It is a most difficult problem as I have always stated to you and I hope that some new approach or new findings will come along so that I can be more definite in giving an opinion.

I have just completed an article which will be in the November Numismatist, and I have undertaken several other research projects.

My kindest regards.

Sincerely,

  
Eric P. Newman

jah

1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio  
44233  
October 7, 1983

Eric P. Newman  
ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri  
63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

Thank you very much for your warm response to my recent letter(s).

Please feel free to keep the coins and bracelet for study until you are able to reach a conclusion that satisfies you. It is indeed heartening to hear that with all the new techniques in forgery detection and new historical findings concerning coins of this kind they still stand up and offer enough possibilities for you to want to continue the project.

Best wishes and good hunting.

Yours truly,

*William C. Blynn*  
William C. Blynn

615 Alice St.  
Port Clinton, O. 43452  
Sept. 11, 1984

Dear Sir,

I want to thank you for your evaluation of my medal. However I dont understand why you may want it as an exhibit.

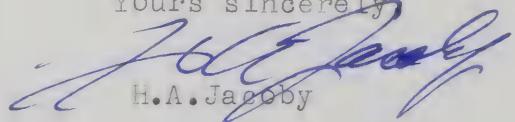
The item was part of a collection and I want to thank you for passing on the other Indian items I had listed to you.

I would like to hear your offer on the medal. However at this time feel that I shall want it back. I do have several other medals of this type. One from Hollow Horn Bear, from the McCreight collection, and several others.

I would trade the Chouteau medal off for Indian police badges, or a fine North West trade musket, that I could place in my collection.

Best regards,

Yours sincerely,



H.A. Jacoby

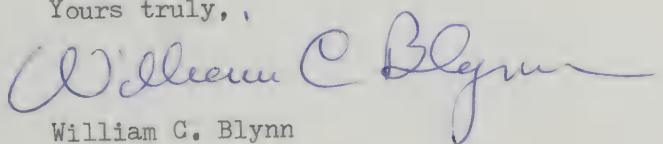
1929 Ledge Road  
Hincley, Ohio  
44233  
August 7, 1985

Eric P. Newman  
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society  
6540 Cecil Avenue,  
St. Louis, Missouri  
63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

It has now been approximately five years since I sent the NE 3d coins and bracelet to you. May I ask if we are making any real progress now towards a final determination of authenticity? If you feel it is warranted you may keep them another five years for study, but an update at this time would be most appreciated.

Yours truly,



William C. Blynn

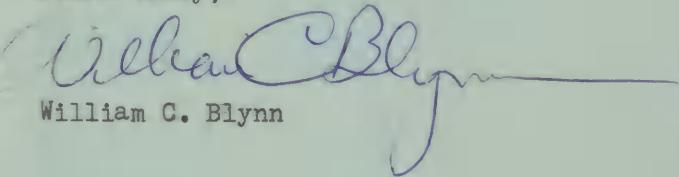
1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio  
44233  
January 3, 1986

Eric P. Newman  
ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY  
6540 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri  
63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

It has now been almost five and one-half years since I first sent you the bracelet and coins. May I ask if we are making any further progress towards a final determination of authenticity? If you feel it to be warranted you may keep them another five and one-half years for study, but an update at this time would be most appreciated.

Yours truly,

  
William C. Blynn

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

January 10, 1986

Mr. William C. Blynn  
1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio 44233

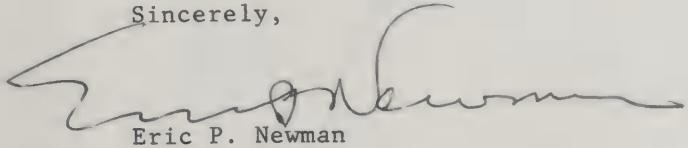
Dear Mr. Blynn:

I have been working on an Indian medal matter currently and I am trying to get in touch with Francis Prucha to see if he has an opinion on your material. It is a very difficult problem and I have not forgotten your interest in having it solved.

Have a healthy and prosperous '86, and you will hear from me when I get further information.

My kindest regards.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric P. Newman". A short line extends from the left side of the signature towards the word "Sincerely".

Eric P. Newman

jah

1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio  
44233  
U.S.A.  
July 23, 1987

Eric P. Newman  
ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY  
6540 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri  
63105

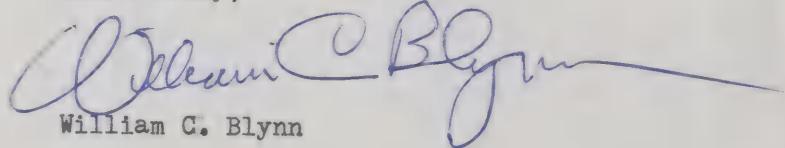
Dear Mr. Newman,

With regards to my recent letter of May 27, 1987, did you receive it? If so, I'm sure you have an excellent reason for not responding to it yet, but I did so want to hear from you regarding my 3d NE Coins and TD marked Indian arm band.

In that letter I made the point that it's been seven years now since I sent the grouping to you for evaluation. In light of that, if you don't mind will you please send them back to me if you cannot make a decision either way or if the decision is negative?

I look forward to receiving those items as soon as possible and thank you very much for the effort you must have put into attempting to authenticate them.

Yours truly,

  
William C. Blynn

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

August 10, 1987

Mr. William G. Blynn  
1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio 44233

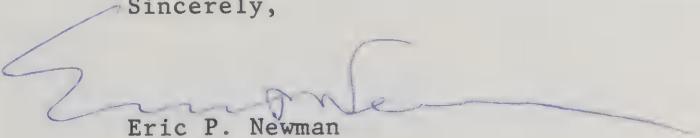
Dear Bill:

I have been out of town and went to the safe deposit box to locate your silver items.

I have been hoping that a metallic research project being worked on at Washington University in St. Louis would help solve our mystery. It is a deeper non-destructive x-ray fluorescence test than previously available. Normal tests are less than one micron deep and it is necessary to get away from surface corrosion to be accurate. I have been unwilling to test the trace elements in the coins by sampling.

I imagine that you know how difficult this problem is and how much time I have put into it. I'll return the piece if that is what you have determined. I cannot give a affirmative opinion at this point.

Sincerely,

  
Eric P. Newman

jah

1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio  
44233  
U.S.A.

August 14, 1987

Eric P. Newman  
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society  
6450 Cecil Avenue.,  
St. Louis, Missouri  
63105

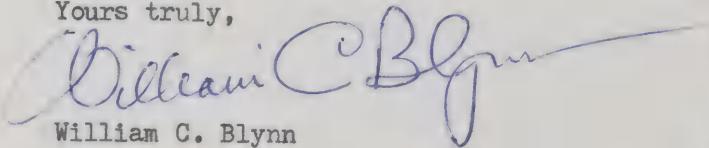
Dear Mr. Newman,

I am in receipt of your letter of August 10.

I surely appreciate your discretion in not wanting to disturb the surfaces of such an potentially important and valuable item. By all means, please carry the project to, hopefully, a happy conclusion for us both. After all this time, I guess a little more devoted to it won't matter very much. God willing, it will all be worth all the time and effort you've put into it and the patience I've had to muster from time to time. Heaven knows that patience is not one of my strong virtues and I couldn't have endured the suspense if I didn't have the overpowering feeling the item is correct and only needs that fact proven or, at least, indicated by extremely overwhelming circumstantial evidence.

Best wishes.

Yours truly,



William C. Blynn

1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio  
44233  
July 14, 1989

Eric P. Newman  
ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY  
6450 Cecil Ave.,  
St. Louis, Missouri  
63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

I thought I would write to inquire into whether you are getting any closer to a determination on the NE 3d coins of mine? We have now reached, as I'm sure you realize, the nine year point since they were first put into your hands for study. I know a project such as this cannot hold to any set timetable, but it is my feeling that if no conclusion can be reached within the next year, which will bring it to ten, it is doubtful if anymore time will help much except provide continued hope that in the interim some conclusive test method will develop.

You mentioned that such a test was being perfected and you have been awaiting its availability so ~~use~~ could use it to test for gold content in the metal. Did that come about? To my way of thinking, if it is not ready yet I'd just go ahead and take a sampling from the hanging hole of one coin and test it rather than hold out for development of the procedure that's being perfected that can avoid a sampling loss. After all, if that test is that important, and I'm sure it is, we could avoid surely anymore waste of time if it tests false.

Time is now against me (or us), and I'd like to know if any faith in the sil.  
has been in vain or not before it is too late.

What are your thoughts on this matter Mr. Newman? As usual, whatever you think regarding what's to be done to bring them to a proper determination will be fine with me. I just wanted to, I suppose, get an update from you and keep in touch.

Yours truly,

William C. Blynn

P.S. You may be interested to know that I still have the Chouteau electros we discussed those many years ago. I keep hoping I'll be using them for a tax credit one of these days when I really need one. W.C.B.

For a new age in  
bronchodilator therapy...

# TWO AND OLDER

November 1, 1989

Dear Mr. Newman,

Because I did not receive a reply to the letter herein photocopied, I thought I'd drop another communication. The mail service is just awful, as I'm sure you know, and I often have mail lost going or comming.

I hope everything is alright and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours truly,

*William C. Blynn*  
William C. Blynn

**VENTOLIN®**  
(ALBUTEROL SULFATE/GLAXO)  
**SYRUP** 2mg/5ml

© 1985, Glaxo Inc.



Please see complete Prescribing  
Information at the back of this pad.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

November 7, 1989

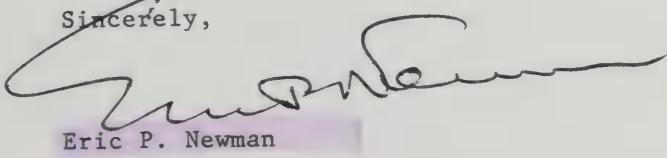
Mr. William C. Blynn  
1929 Ledge Road  
Hinkley, OH 44233

Dear patient friend:

I was just in New York at the American Numismatic Society and discussed the meaning of trace element determination in coins. The general thinking is that it is usually inconclusive unless some forger makes a terrible mistake.

I have a Chonteau medal on exhibit at the museum. It appears to be solid lead showing both sides. I am sure mine is not real. Yours is probably like the copper electro at the Missouri Historical Society.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

EPN:bv

1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio  
44233  
January 8, 1990

Eric P. Newman  
ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY  
6450 Cicil Avenue,  
St. Louis, Missouri  
63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

You know, Mr. Newman, I was herein going to request the return of the silver armband and both NE 3d dangles as I thought I'd just run out of patience and might as well right-off the project as well as dash my hopes and faith in the items.

But, I just noticed that in your last correspondence of November 7, 1989 you addressed me as "Dear patient friend!" I must admit that when I again noticed that it inspired me to be a little more patient for awhile longer. So, I will be.

Please continue on, Sir, but for heaven's sake, and with all due respect, try your best to reach a point soon where you can come to an unpressured opinion on the coins, one way or the other.

Best wishes.

Yours truly,

William C. Blynn

1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio  
44233  
Febr. 10, 1990

Eric P. Newman  
ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY  
6450 Cecil Ave.,  
St. Louis, Missouri  
63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

Would you be so kind as to tell me if you have a medal in the SOCIETY'S museum collection or not like the one pictured in the enclosed photocopies? As you can no doubt see even from the rather poor pictures it is a LOUISIANA PURCHASE EXPOSITION 1904 ST. LOUIS U.S. Mint struck grand prize medal designed by A.A. Wineman.

Also, can you please tell me if the Missouri Hist. Soc. or any other MO. public or private institution that you know of has one? Would they be considered rare and valuable or desireable from the standpoint of U.S. medal or numismatic considerations? And, any other interesting information you may have available on this medal would be appreciated.

Thank you.

*William C. Blynn*  
Yours truly,  
William C. Blynn

P.S. I also am wondering about the medal with the U.S. arms, etc. in the photo-copy enclosed. I strongly suspect this is a struck piece and done by the U.S. Mint. Can find no reference anywhere on this one. Can you help on that also? SASE is enclosed for your convenience. Thank you, again. WCB.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

March 14, 1990

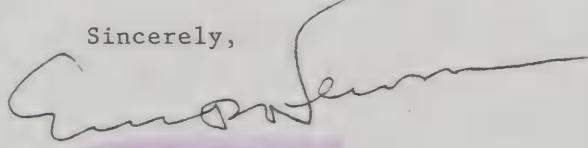
Mr. William C. Blynn  
1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, OH 44233

Dear Mr. Blynn:

I enclose a photocopy of page 11 from a pamphlet issued in 1979 by Kurt Krueger entitled "Meet Me in St. Louie." This gives the listing of the grand prize medal. We have this medal in our collection already. I hope this information is helpful. As to the Yugoslavia medal, I have no information about it, but will keep my eyes open.

I hope I have been helpful.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

EPN:bv



17. Same, but  
**GOLD MEDAL — PHILIPPINES EXHIBIT**  
Shield, Bronze, 71x71mm.  
F-VF EF-AU Unc  
75.00 100.00 175.00

18. **GRAND PRIZE**  
Partial shield with straight sides and top.  
Bronze, 65x74mm.  
F-VF EF-AU Unc  
35.00 85.00 125.00

1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio  
44233  
May 5, 1990

Eric P. Newman  
ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY  
6450 Cecil Ave.,  
St. Louis, Missouri  
63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

Here we are at the ten year point in the study of my N.E. 3d coins and Indian arm bracelet. At least, since you've acquired them from me, that is. I believe this is a good time, therefore, to take stock of the situation and try to come to some conclusions about where to go from here.

To put it quite simply, my thinking is that unless I can be assured that the coins and bracelet have been subjected to testing for 17th century silver content, the most basic test in their quest for authentication, and have past said test, they should be returned to me (the two coins and bracelet) and let the matter just end there.

I know of several methods currently in use to test the content, such as the Spectrometer in use at The Cleveland Museum of Art that could test the coins without damage. But, even if they had to be tested by removing a small amount of metal, so what? Whichever method used, at least that critical point would be hurdled and hopefully successfully.

I suspect you are still not ready to give up on this project and neither am I. However, even though, apparently, they have stood up under every test thus far they've been subjected to, unless the above examination has been done I'm of the mind I should have the three pieces returned to me. What do you think, Mr. Newman?

Yours truly,

William C. Blynn

1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio  
44233  
August 7, 1990

Eric P. Newman  
6450 Cicil Ave.  
St. Louis, MO  
63105

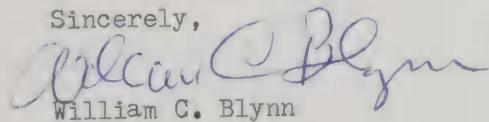
Dear Mr. Newman,

Real nice talking with you the other evening. I'm glad you brought up your concern over the years about the solder in use on the hangers of the armband. It prompted me to check out the use of solder in the silversmithing trade of New England during the 1600s to confirm what I new to be true; that solder was in common use at that time.

Solder has been used in various forms, particularly in the silver and jewelry trades since ancient Rome and Ancient Egypt, etc. Tin combined with silver and lead with silver was easily used to solder non-ferrous metals together such as gold and silver. The application of solder would have been brought to New England by the transplanted tradespeople who took up their trade in New England. Supposedly, the bracelet was made by Timothy Dwight, son-in-law of John Hull and his apprentice. John Hull was a silversmith, Boston's best, and the first mintmaster of New England. So, soldering and brazing, etc. would most naturally be used on the hangers of the armband, which is why when I cut the links for you ten years ago I left that solder section untouched so that the workmanship would be intact if needed.

I do hope the above puts your mind at ease on that score, so that you can continue the project without preconceived prejudices against the coins. As we agreed on the telephone, why hold anything against the coins because of something neither of us is that expert on - namely, the use of solder on a bracelet.

Sincerely,

  
William C. Blynn

Eric P. Newman  
ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY  
6450 Cicil Ave.,  
St. Louis, MO  
63105

1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio  
44233  
U.S.A.  
August 31, 1990

Dear Mr. Newman,

When I was inquiring into the uses of solder on jewelry and utensils made of precious metals, I discussed the matter with the Curator of American History at the WESTERN RESERVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY in Cleveland, one Dean Zimmerman. I mentioned the NE 3d coins and bracelet to him and he offered to inquire with a friend of his who is Curator of American Fine Arts at the BOSTON MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS. So, I sent Mr. Zimmerman a picture of the overall item, it was forwarded and the comments are as follows.

The curator at the Boston Museum is very excited about the item and feels the coins are of the Sanderson Mint and the bracelet's hall mark of Timothy Dwight compares favorably with the marks on the two examples of silver in their collection, one a salver the other a platter. Also, the engraving compares with Timothy Dwight's style. He seems to favor intensive further examination and is surprised you've not authenticated the coins, yet.

In light of the above, which is merely related all around by telephone conversation, do you not think you should discuss the matter with Mr. Fairbanks? Perhaps he can be willingly of some assistance. After all, the item was plowed-up at nearby Ipswich, Mass. and I'm sure they would have much interest in the bracelet.

Sincerely,

  
William C. Blynn

Telephone number of Dean Zimmerman 1-(216)721-5722

1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, OH  
44233  
Sep't. 23, 1990  
(216)225-4974

Eric P. Newman  
ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY  
6450 Cecil Ave.,  
St. Louis, MO  
63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

As much as I try to ignore or resist the thought that it still might be a long time before you can give your unbiased opinion, especially a favorable one, on the NE 3d coins, it persists. Even in light of the new information I was able to obtain and forward to you regarding the solder, engraving and touchmark which should have put aside some of the reservations you had about the item in general, things apparently aren't any closer to fruition.

So, I guess the passing of the ten year point in your study has brought me to the conclusion that I should do what prior to now was the unthinkable - ask you to return the item before your study is complete. Although the new admittedly circumstantial findings have made me even more confident the coins will surely be correct, I don't think it will affect your ability to make a decision yet, and, perhaps, rightfully so. Therefore, until the time comes when you can write your opinion on the coins, it may be best if I have them back so I can enjoy them myself for whatever time I have left and have them available should an opportunity surface for sale or exchange.

I therefore think I will take you up on your recent offer to return the two coins and bracelet, but only at your own convenience. The study can probably be continued without them, should you desire to do so, but if not, please advise me of that point.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
*William C. Blynn*  
William C. Blynn

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

September 28, 1990

Mr. William C. Blynn  
1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, OH 44233

Dear Mr. Blynn:

Thank you for your recent letters. You will very much like this letter of mine.

I spoke to Jonathon Fairbanks of the Boston Fine Arts Museum and he said that they were willing to examine and give an opinion on the arm band and the two 3d pieces without charge and that they would make a surface metallic analysis of the pieces. My friend, Cornelius Vermuele, of that museum, saw your pictures of the coins and gave his thoughts to Fairbanks. Whether he knew I was the one who is reluctant to give an opinion as to the coins, I do not know. He could not have given any opinion because he has not even seen the pieces.

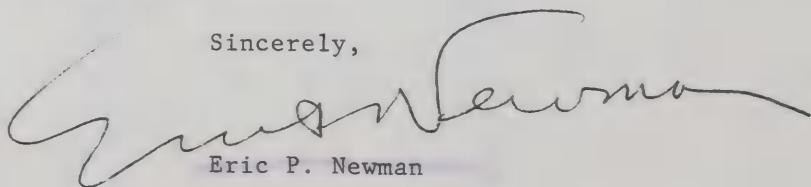
What Fairbanks wants is all prior history of the group: from whom you bought them, when, and all details as to their prior history (Ipswich?), etc. Please send this to me.

Please let me know if I may send the items to Boston for the above purpose and what to insure them for. I do not feel I should give them any of my findings before they examine the pieces. Then I can discuss the matter with them as they do not usually give coin opinions except where metallic analysis is wrong.

I still am hopeful I can give an opinion which I am sure of. I don't give opinions when the facts leave reasonable doubts. It is too easy to give an opinion based upon other than facts.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

EPN:bv

1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio  
44233  
U.S.A.

October 3, 1990

Eric P. Newman  
ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY  
6450 Cecil Avenue,  
St. Louis, Missouri  
63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

Thank you for your letter of September 28 and the follow-up telephone call.

Regarding both and in compliance with your requests, enclosed please find copies of the letters between W.E. (Doc.) Martt and myself (obtained the item from the farmer in Ipswich), Harry B. McDaniel (he got the item from Martt and I obtained it from him) and some miscellaeous information on Timothy Dwight, John Hull, etc. which I'm sure your are already familiere with. Personally, I have never felt there was any "skull-duggery" or collusion indicated what-so-ever in the letters of Martt and McDaniel. McDaniel is still around and always considered this his most important acquisition he ever obtained for his personal collection and museum. He can be called, if neccessary.

As I related on the telephone to you: you may send the items to Boston for analysis and opinions and insure them for whatever you deem proper.

From what I know, which admittedly is not much, about the preciousmetals, a so-called "negative" finding would not neccesarily be conclusive. But, it would probably be enough to cause everyone to loose interest.

I'm sorry for the trouble I'm putting everyone to. I could live with the opinion of a scholar such as yourself indicating the piece to be false, but it would be much more difficult to know I look like a fool to so many people. I have in my collections some world-class items and it wouldn't do my reputation any good to have been foobled on this one. But, my faith in the item is strong, so I just have to chance it.

If you need anything else, please let me know Mr. Newman.

Sincerely,

William C. Blynn

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

October 17, 1990

Mr. Jonathan Fairbanks  
Museum of Fine Arts  
465 Huntington Avenue  
Boston, MA 02115

Dear Mr. Fairbanks:

In accordance with our telephone conversation and written permission from William C. Blynn (the owner), I enclose herewith a partially decorated silver armband with the initials TD on it and two holed silver coins appearing to be New England threepences. You stated that you will have a non-destructive metal analysis made and may also render an opinion as to the genuineness of at least the armband. Your tests and opinions we understand are being made as a voluntary service.

You asked for any provenance which we could find and I am sending you what we have obtained from the owner.

These items were submitted to us on three prior occasions and the coins were attached to the band by the links in the beginning. We also send a photocopy of what they looked like when attached.

We have long ago given our opinion on the coins, but have never given an opinion on the armband.

So that you may not be influenced by our prior findings or opinion, we are withholding those matters so that you may reach any of your conclusions independently. If, however, you wish to have our findings and opinion in advance, we will send them to you.

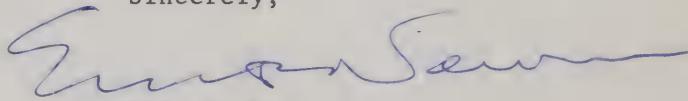
We would like very much to be informed as to what any metallic analysis may show and what your opinion may be.

We will be glad to furnish you with any prior general references to coin matters, if that would be helpful. If you care to show the armband to Edward Firestone of Boston, you certainly may do so. Please feel free to write us or telephone us as to any additional information we are in a position to furnish.

We hope you find the project of interest and after you have finished with the items, please return them to us or if we request, directly to the owner.

Thanks very much for your generosity in helping to solve the problem. Please give Cornelius Vermeule my kindest regards.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

October 17, 1990

Mr. Jonathan Fairbanks  
Museum of Fine Arts  
465 Huntington Avenue  
Boston, MA 02115

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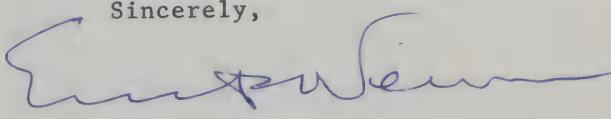
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Thanks very much for your generosity in helping to solve the problem. Please give Cornelius Vermeule my kindest regards.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

FROM: (Name and/or Dept.)

**EPNewman**

**EDISON BROTHERS STORES, INC.**

501 NORTH BROADWAY ST. LOUIS, MO 63102

UPS SHIPPER #

MO 679-742

PKG. ID # **62707**

MR JONATHAN FAIRBANKS  
MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS  
465 HUNTINGTON AVENUE  
BOSTON MA 02115

Registered Mail

SHIPMENT CONFIRMATION

*Total \$ 8.45*

*50¢ Service*

R031631863 <sub>19-19-90</sub>

USPS	0.75 LB	\$ 2.40
SERVICE CHARGES		\$ 6.05
TOTAL CHARGES		\$ 8.45

SENDER'S INFORMATION

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

*Antique Armchair and Decoration*

AMOUNT OF INSURANCE REQUIRED (IF ANY) \$ 3,000.00

NAME ERIC P. NEWMAN DEPT. ADM

DIVISION EBS EXPENSE CENTER NO. 4110010 PERSONAL

TELEPHONE EXTENSION 7502 FLOOR 5

DATE OF REQUEST 10/17/90

LATEST DATE AND TIME SHIPMENT MUST REACH DESTINATION  
(ASAP IS NOT ACCEPTABLE)

DATE 10/24/90 TIME \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVAL Eric Newman

SHIPPING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY

COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

INITIALS OF  
SHIPPING CLERK

*DD*



Museum  
of  
Fine Arts  
Boston  
465 Huntington Avenue  
Boston  
Massachusetts  
02115  
(617) 267-9300

January 14, 1990

1991

Eric P. Newman  
Numismatic Education Society  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

Enclosed please find the written results from the surface examination of William Blynn's silver armband and accompanying coins. As you can see from the researcher's analysis, there is some question regarding the objects' authenticity. It is possible that the interior composition of the armband would indicate a different silver composition. If you think it would be necessary to further substantiate the analysis with an examination of the interior silver content, samples of silver would need to be removed from the armband. A xeroxed diagram of the armband indicates the areas where silver would be sampled from. Written permission to perform this analysis is needed from the owner, Mr. Blynn. Please let us know what next steps you would have us take.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

*jonathan*  
Jonathan L. Fairbanks  
Katharine Lane Weems Curator of  
American Decorative Arts and Sculpture

EXAMINATION REPORT

Museum Number: TL  
 Subject: Armband and Two Coins.  
 Attributed to Timothy Dwight.

The armband and two coins were examined for authenticity using a low-power stereobinocular microscope and energy dispersive x-ray fluorescence spectroscopy (XRF). For comparative studies, we examined a T. Dwight salver and several American coins from the 17th century.

The armband appears rather tarnished and worn. All the details on the coins, save for the "NE", "III" and "II" markings, have been worn off. Similarly, the only remaining details on the armband are remnants of floral patterns and the stamp "TD."

The alloy compositions of the two coins and armband were determined by energy dispersive x-ray fluorescence. This technique detects elements heavier than calcium on the surface of objects, penetrating less than a hundredth of a millimeter. Several smooth spots on the three objects were selected for analyses. Since we do not have museum number for the two coins, they are identified as below.

Object	Identification
NE.II	Coin with "NE" on one side and "II" on the other
NE.III	Coin with "NE" on one side and "III" on the other

As evident by the composition table below, the armband and two coins are relatively high purity silver which is unusual for this period. The copper contents of the three objects are less than 0.1% (with the exception of a slightly higher level at one point on one of the coins). The gold level of the armband was barely above the detection limit of our system. Zinc was found in solder area of the armband's loops. Gold was not detected in the two coins. Lead was below the detection limit in all three pieces.

Object.Site	Weight Percentage			
	Ag	Cu	Au	Pb
Armband.1	99.9	0.1	-	-
Armband.2	99.9	-	0.08	-
Armband.3	99.9	-	0.1	-
NE.II.II Side	100.0	-	-	-
NE.II.II Side	99.9	0.09	-	-
NE.II.NE Side	100.0	-	-	-
NE.III.NE Side	99.9	0.09	-	-
NE.III.III Side	99.8	0.17	-	-
Detection Limit	n/a	0.07	0.07	0.04

In a study<sup>1</sup> of silver tankards of the 18th century, trace levels of gold and lead were found to be 0.03-0.28% and 0.10-0.37%, respectively (see attached). Copper levels ranged from 3.8 to 12.7%. The copper, gold, and lead levels cited on the attached are higher than the three objects examined.

Since XRF is a surface technique, we have to take into consideration the possibility that the exterior surface may not reflect the interior composition.

It is known that early American silversmiths dipped objects in acidic medium to remove oxide and copper to obtain a silver rich surface. In a study<sup>1</sup> of Paul Revere tankards, Hanson found that the areas not frequently polished had a slightly lower copper content, reflecting the post-dip silver-enriched surface. Areas frequently polished had higher copper content, reflecting the interior alloy. However, this phenomenon does not pertain to the armband and two coins whose surfaces are worn to the extent that only key details remain. The present surface most likely reflects the interior alloy.

Corrosion will also lead to silver enriching, by leaching out copper from the surface. This too is ruled out since the objects have not undergone extensive corrosion.

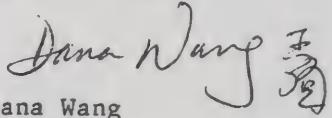
Confirmation that its interior composition is not substantially different than that of the surface would require analysis of a sample. Although the coins cannot be sampled, a small fraction of a millimeter sample can be taken from one of the loops of the armband.

For further comparative study of worn or polished surfaces, several 17th century pieces from the MFA collection were analyzed. A salver made by Timothy Dwight and several 17th century coins were examined. As shown in the table below, trace levels of lead were found in all of the objects, and in a few cases gold. Furthermore, the copper content ranges from 4.5 to 10.2%.

In conclusion, currently available information about 17th c. American silver indicates that the armband and coins are quite anomalous in composition, which casts doubt on their authenticity.

Object.Site	Weight Percentage			
	Ag	Cu	Au	Pb
Salver.1	92.6	7.1	0.1	0.2
Salver.2	93.2	6.5	0.1	0.2
Salver.3	93.6	6.1	0.08	0.2
92.1534	95.1	4.5	-	0.4
17.300	95.1	4.6	-	0.3
01.4958	89.5	10.2	-	0.3
No #.Pine Shilling	92.4	7.2	0.1	0.2

11 December 1990

Dana Wang  
  
Dana Wang  
Research Science Intern

0453s

<sup>1</sup>Victor F. Hanson, "Quantitative Elemental Analysis of Art Objects by Energy-Dispersive X-ray Fluorescence Spectroscopy," Applied Spectroscopy, Vol. 27, No.5, 1973, pp.309-344.

**TABLE VII. Analysis results: Six Paul Revere tankards, Massachusetts, 1768.**

Analysis of eight parts from each of six tankards made by Paul Revere in the period 1768-1771, shown in Fig. 4. The difference in the copper content of the "bottom of body" and the "side of body," which are both the same piece of metal, is due to an acid dip made by the silversmith to remove oxides and copper at the surface just prior to the final polishing. The silver-rich surface has been removed from the side of the body by repeated polishings whereas the infrequent polishing of the bottom left it in its silver-rich condition. Abrasive-containing silver polishes cut through this layer in a few minutes. While we have only tabulated values of Ag, Cu, Au, and Pb in this table, we actually recorded a total of 14 elements. It was interesting to note that several parts of the various tankards have essentially the same composition, indicating that they were probably made from the same melt. Furthermore, one might conclude that he mixed his alloys in small batches, judging by the many differences in analysis. The variability of composition of the parts on the same piece is typical of American-made pieces.

Accession Number	Bottom of body				Side of body				Base rim				Lid				
	Ag	Cu	Au	Pb	Ag	Cu	Au	Pb	Ag	Cu	Au	Pb	Ag	Cu	Au	Pb	
57.859.1	93.8	5.1	0.19	0.26	94.0	5.5	0.15	0.22 <sup>a</sup>	94.5	4.7	0.09	0.20	94.6	4.5	0.13	0.28	
	.2	93.6	5.1	0.04	0.26	92.9	6.0	0.01	0.31	92.9	6.5	0.15	0.26	90.7	8.5	0.15	0.31
	.3	93.3	6.0	0.18	0.33	86.5	12.7	0.12	0.30	93.3	6.2	0.16	0.21	93.4	6.1	0.14	0.22
	.4	93.9	5.4	0.08	0.20	92.9	6.6	0.09	0.17	93.1	6.3	0.17	0.23	94.3	3.8	0.16	0.20
	.5	93.4	6.0	0.13	0.22	91.4	8.0	0.17	0.21	92.8	6.9	0.12	0.18	91.0	5.4	0.16	0.23 <sup>a</sup>
	.6	93.1	6.1	0.14	0.32	88.7	10.5	0.10	0.37	93.3	5.5	0.13	0.22 <sup>a</sup>	93.8	5.6	0.17	0.27 <sup>a</sup>
<hr/>																	
Handle face								Handle side								Finial	
																Hinge	
Ag	Cu	Au	Pb	Ag	Cu	Au	Pb	Ag	Cu	Au	Pb	Ag	Cu	Au	Pb	Ag	Cu
57.859.1	93.4	6.1	0.15	0.20	90.0	9.2	0.13	0.27	94.2	5.2	0.16	0.29	92.7	6.8	0.03	0.14	
	.2	94.3	5.2	0.16	0.29	93.8	5.7	0.17	0.20 <sup>a</sup>	92.1	6.5	0.32	0.35	85.4	12.0	0.11	0.27
	.3	91.2	7.4	0.13	0.21	90.5	8.5	0.18	0.28	94.5	4.9	0.13	0.10	91.4	8.1	0.07	0.14
	.4	94.1	5.4	0.19	0.19 <sup>a</sup>	91.0	8.1	0.20	0.16	93.8	5.7	0.19	0.24 <sup>a</sup>	90.1	8.7	0.05	0.17
	.5	93.1	6.4	0.18	0.17	93.5	5.7	0.21	0.21 <sup>a</sup>	93.9	5.7	0.15	0.11	90.2	9.2	0.15	0.19
	.6	94.4	5.2	0.16	0.21	89.2	9.5	0.09	0.22	91.3	7.0	0.28	0.35	92.5	6.8	0.08	0.30

\* Certified values. The seven parts designated postscript "a" are of the same composition, indicating that they were probably all cast from the same melt. Other parts can also be grouped together based on homologous compositions.

which were taken from intermediate sections of the original castings. The  $^{109}\text{Cd}$  source provides high signal-to-noise or baseline ratio to the elements below 12 kV and hence closer agreement than from the  $^{241}\text{Am}$  source.

Since silver appears as an impurity in old brass and bronze, it is important to be able to detect it in the 0.05% to the 0.5% level to detect forgeries. We therefore employ the  $^{109}\text{Cd}$  source for the elements listed up to 15 kV and the  $^{241}\text{Am}$  source from 15 to 45 kV. The  $^{241}\text{Am}$  source is free from the silver artifact.

We also adjust the multiplier factor of column B to "fit" our reference standards, thereby increasing the accuracy considerably as judged by a closer fit to many objects which have been analyzed by other methods.

We have recently prepared a computer program which provides a better baseline correction for small samples (5 to 25 mg) so that there is a very close agreement with the analysis of the parent block from which the filings were obtained. Details of this work will be reported after these preliminary results are confirmed.

### C. Computer Read-Out

In mid-1971 we obtained a Hewlett-Packard 2114B computer with our HP 7620A chromatograph with the intent of adapting this computer to our x-ray fluorescence equipment. While Hewlett-Packard said that it was impossible at that time to operate this computer on line without going through an intermediate tape punching and reading operation, P. H. Gaither of our Scientific Advisory Committee not only took the necessary few steps to operate it on line but also to develop programs to make the computations and to provide direct read-outs of weight percent of 15 elements in the silver,

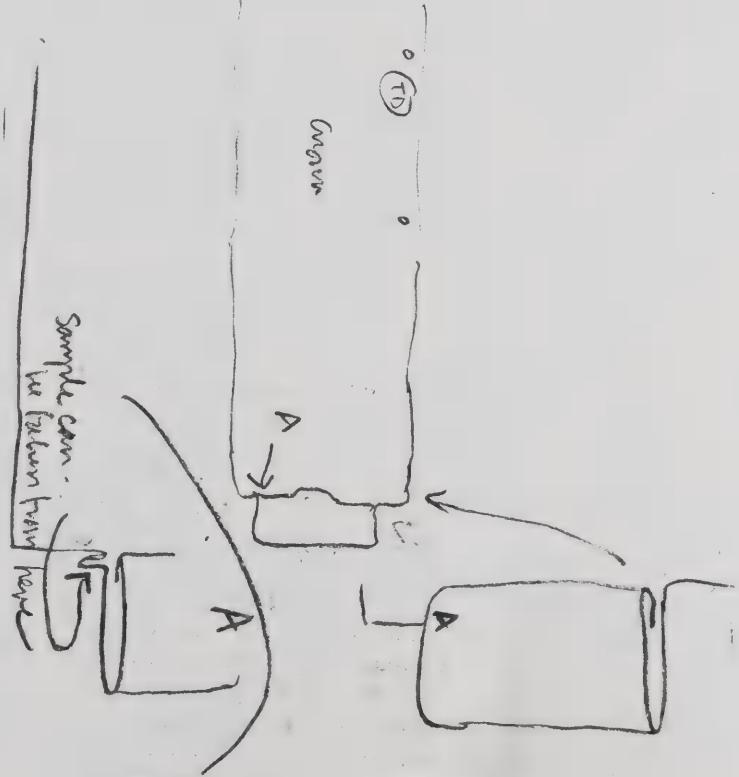
brass, and pewter programs, and 35 elements in our glass program. There is really no limit to the number of elements which can be determined in any one analysis. There is, however, a practical limit mostly because of the clerical requirements if too many elements are included in the analysis.

The computer read-out has enabled us to analyze 15 elements and characterize over 2000 silver objects of American origin and about 100 of British origin during the past year. We can now distinguish the origin and authenticity of most pieces with a high level of confidence on the basis of silver, copper, and minor element content. Table VII shows typical results from six tankards made by Paul Revere in 1768 (Fig. 4). Only 4 elements are listed in this table although 15 were determined. We also analyzed in one afternoon a group of 24 15th century Italian bronze objects in a joint study with the National Gallery of Art and the Louvre and showed that 3 of these objects had 15 elements present in identical concentration and, even though they had been separated for over 100 years, they were indeed poured from the same batch of metal. Furthermore, 1 piece was a medallion of a 15th century pope and was signed by the sculptor. Details of this work, which would be the envy of Ripley's "Believe It or Not" creation, will be published soon.

### D. Operational Procedures for Computer Read-Out for Metal Objects Employing "Reference Standards"

1. Choose the element which is to provide the baseline correction. This is generally the principal element or one whose secondary peak overlaps an important element peak.

Area to be sampled.



ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

January 23, 1991

Mr. Jonathan Fairbanks  
Museum of Fine Arts  
465 Huntington Ave.  
Boston, MA 02115

Dear Mr. Fairbanks:

Thank you for your interesting report on the silver armband and two New England 3d. I will want to talk this matter over with you but first wanted to give you a few comments.

I note the lack of significant amounts of impurities on the surface of all three items. If these pieces are virtually pure silver throughout, an accurate specific gravity ought to determine this. Did you do a specific gravity test? Pure silver would not be normal in coins of the 17th century, but sterling (.925) or a slightly lesser fineness if made of Spanish-American coin (.910) would.

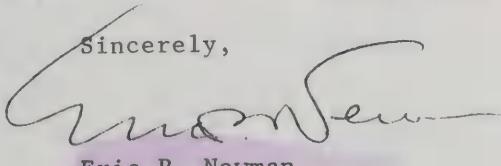
As to other non-destructive tests, I enclose a write-up of other methods included in an opinion by a friend relating to copper coins.

Do you know when zinc was first used for soldering or when solder was first used on silver? This could be important, as the links holding the coins were solidly closed when I first saw the armband.

I prefer not contacting Mr. Blynn for permission to sample until we talk further about this.

Let me hear from you as to the above. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

EPN:bv

in every position. On the Roper coin denticles can be seen on the obverse under SCIEN, while the 1981 ANA specimen does not show denticles at that position. On the 1981 ANA coin denticles can be seen over ERTY, while the Roper specimen shows none in that position. The observation that in at least two places the border denticles of both are not identical strongly indicates that the 1981 ANA coin did not serve as the "prototype" for the Roper Birch cent. It suggests nothing about the authenticity of either, however, for both may have been made from different molds taken from different originals, since lost. To examine the authenticity of the Roper Birch cent, non-destructive analytical tests were employed, since the original reason for condemning it has been shown to be weak.

#### X-Ray Fluorescence and Specific Gravity

It is unnecessary to describe the techniques utilized in these two procedures, since they are widely understood. Their usefulness is limited solely to the evidence they provide for the elemental composition of the test subject. This evidence can be supplemented, however, by comparing the analytical results with those obtained from tests of known, genuine coins. In addition, attention to trace elements in the chemical composition of the test subject can be suggestive, especially in the case of unfamiliar or unexpected traces detected, which can indicate a melt not contemporaneous with the purported date of the coin tested.

The specific gravity of the Roper coin is 8.85; the theoretical specific gravity measurement for pure copper is 8.89. The Roper coin's specific gravity measurement shows that it is composed of nearly pure copper, and so is not an electrotype copy.

X-ray fluorescence test results yielded uncleaned surface readings of 98-99% pure copper, with minor traces of iron and lead. Any other trace elements were below detection limits ( $+/- 0.001\%$ ). These results are in accord with those published for Norweb:3394 and several Confederation era copper coins tested simultaneously. No unexpected trace elements were detected. However, the melts made up for several counterfeit copper coins yielded results similar to those read from the Norweb and Roper Birch cents, as well as other, genuine, copper coins, and it must be stressed that even in the absence of unusual trace elements, x-ray fluorescence test results from copper coins do not suggest anything about the authenticity of such coins (any purported 18th century silver coin that does not betray traces of gold when so tested is automatically counterfeit, however).

#### X-Ray Diffraction

Since this analytical technique is unfamiliar to many collectors, a short discussion of it, and its application to coins, may be in order. X-ray diffraction analysis by the Laue back-scatter technique is an extremely useful test to determine the grain size and structure of an object in a non-destructive fashion. In this technique (there are several other methods of x-ray diffraction), the subject coin is positioned in front of a cartridge containing a frame of unexposed Polaroid photographic film. A generator then directs a stream of x-rays into the middle of the coin, most of which pass directly through it, overexposing the film behind. Some of the x-rays, however, strike the microscopic grains of the metallic elements that make up the coin and are deflected at angles whose measurements can identify the element struck. If the internal structure of the coin is made up of large, irregularly shaped grains, these deflect more x-rays than would small grains arranged in regular lattices.

this  
probably  
should  
be  
170

The deflected x-rays also strike the surface of the photographic film, exposing it in patterns typical of the internal grain structure of the object. Large grain structures create discrete, lumpy overexposed patterns; small grain structures, on the other hand, create even, smooth patterns on the film.

The test has two results. Firstly, the ring patterns formed by the deflected x-rays identify the major elements composing the coin, and thus can not only confirm results of surface elemental analysis, but also indicate exactly the internal composition of the coin. Secondly, the amount of overexposure and the patterns formed on the film's surface by the deflected x-rays are a function of the size and arrangement of the metallic grains that make up the coin. Coins whose internal copper structures are composed of fine, regularly arranged grains show Laue photographs characterized by two continuous concentric circles of overexposure. Coins whose internal copper composition is made up of large and irregularly sized grains show two discontinuous concentric rings. Two concentric rings, of course, are the signature of pure or nearly so copper content.

Struck copper coins and electrotype copies always show two continuous rings around the central point on a Laue photograph. The pressure, and heat generated, of striking realign the internal copper lattices of a planchet into orderly patterns composed of fine grains. The electrotyping process creates a similar effect, since deposition of metal at the electrode is by atomic migration. Cast coins always show discontinuous rings in Laue photographs, composed of a mixture of large and small grains, since in casting the metal cools at preferential and discontinuous rates, disallowing the formation of even and uniform fine grained structures.

The photographic results of the Laue x-ray diffraction test on the Roper Birch cent show two continuous concentric rings around the central position, typical of struck coins and electrotypes, entirely atypical of casts. The Laue photograph of the Roper Birch cent is identical to that published for Norweb:3394, and to the unpublished photographs of other late 18th century American copper coins referred to in the *CNL* article mentioned earlier.

The report on the Roper Birch cent written by the Harvard analyst notes "...faint evidence of separation suggesting some form of distortion in the structure. Earlier observations of a similar structure on a 1792 Birch cent [Norweb:3394] suggested that such Laue structures may indicate a rolled surface done prior to striking." The fact that the Birch cents were struck on planchets cut from rolled strip, entirely unknown to the Harvard analyst who is not familiar with coins, underscores the importance of the Laue technique for numismatic research.

#### Polarizing Microscopy

The results of the x-ray diffraction test were confirmed by examination of the Roper Birch cent under polarized light microscopy. Different areas of the surfaces of a cast coin cool at different rates, due to the surface elemental composition, grains size and structures, or localized contact with the cooler surfaces of the casting mold. Invisible under normal light, under polarized light, microscopic surface features called dendritic structures can be seen on cast coins, where preferential cooling has occurred during casting. These features resemble the branches of a tree or the veins of a leaf, hence their name. The Harvard analyst detected no dendritic structures on the Roper Birch

cent.

The presence of microscopic areas of cuprite was seen on areas of the surfaces of the coin. Cuprite (cuprous oxide, CuO<sub>2</sub>) is a naturally occurring deep red colored superficial corrosion product found on copper and high copper bronze and brass objects, coins included. Its formation, even in small amounts on a copper coin, requires considerable time and cuprite is not easily applied by any rapid, artificial process (see *The Restoration of Ancient Bronzes and Other Alloys*, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1925). It has even been suggested that at least 75 years are required for the formation of cuprite to occur naturally on a copper or high copper bronze/brass object.

### Conclusions

Although the Roper Birch cent has the superficial, naked eye appearance of being a cast copy, none of the other examples studied to date could possibly have served as its "prototype" without re-engraving some details and deliberately weakening others, which does not appear to have been the case. The specific gravity and x-ray fluorescence tests, supplemented by the secondary results of the x-ray diffraction test, show that it is not an electrotype. Its elemental composition is nearly pure copper. Results of the x-ray diffraction test show that its internal granular structure is composed of fine grains, entirely unlike the results seen on cast coins. Polarizing light microscopy shows no surface dendritic structures typically found on cast coins. Areas of cuprite on its surfaces cannot easily be duplicated by a counterfeiter and suggest an age in excess of 75 years.

There will probably always be controversy attached to the Roper Birch cent, because it looks suspiciously like a cast, has a poor, short ring when struck, and is low in weight. All the scientific tests available to the numismatic authenticator, however, indicate that it is a genuine, struck example of a 1792 Birch cent, Two Stars on Edge variety. This is a case of a conflict between the numismatist's "gut feeling" about a coin and the results of impartial tests and comparisons. X-ray diffraction analysis and polarizing microscopy examination are fairly unfamiliar techniques applied to numismatic study. Too few coins have been so studied, and there is no universal acceptance of the results yielded by these procedures as yet. Both have proven themselves capable of detecting cast coins in the past, confirming "gut feelings" about other coins. However, these tests are not easily obtained, require long "turn around" times for completion, and have been applied too infrequently for general awareness. In the case of the Roper Birch cent, the results contradict the conventional wisdom about this coin. It should be remembered that, while it is very easy to condemn a coin as fake, it can be extremely difficult to prove a coin is real.

\* \* \* \* \*

# PENNY-WISE

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## A Maligned Birch Cent?

Michael Hodder

At the lot exhibition preceding Stack's sale of the John L. Roper, 2nd collection the authenticity of lot 426, a 1792 Birch cent, Two Stars on Edge variety, was questioned. The coin had been sold to Roper by Richard Picker for considerably below the then fair market value. Its earlier pedigree was untraced. The Roper Birch cent appeared very porous, the design details were soft and in places indistinct, and the coin's ring was sharp, short, and faded quickly. Its weight also appeared to be very low. Comparison of the Roper piece with plates of lot 2730 from the 1981 ANA Convention sale seemed to suggest that both were identically soft in the same places, had identical off-centering characteristics, and had an identical edge "bulge" at 2:00 on the reverse. Since no two early struck copper coins could possibly share as many identical, accidental characteristics as appeared on these two specimens; and as the 1981 ANA specimen had been withdrawn as a cast counterfeit; Stack's withdrew the Roper piece from the sale. The consensus of opinion later was that the 1981 ANA specimen had served as the cast "prototype" for the Roper coin, and that both had been made years earlier in the Far East to deceive collectors.

The history of the Roper Birch cent after December, 1983 is not entirely documented. Around June of the following year it was sent to ANACS for study. ANACS sent it to Eric P. Newman. On July 16, 1984 Newman wrote an opinion stating that he believed the coin to be authentic, although of low weight, and subsequently ANACS authenticated the Roper Birch cent under their number F-6055-F. Five months later, the coin appeared as lot 611 in Dana Linnett's sale of December. Its history for the next six years is obscure. In June, 1990 it was sent to me by its present owner, with a request for non-destructive analysis and further study. I had previously studied the Norweb Birch cent, lot 3394, under similar circumstances, and had published the results of that study in *The Colonial Newsletter* ("The Usefulness of X-Ray Diffraction in Numismatic Analysis", v.29, n.1 [April, 1989], seq. pp. 1075-1079). The owner of the Roper Birch cent requested that I submit the coin to Harvard University's Center for Conservation and Technical Analysis for similar testing. All testing and analysis was carried out during June-August, 1990. This note is the first publication of those results.

The gross physical parameters of the Roper Birch cent may be described as follows:

Weight: 200.2 grains  
Horizontal Diameter: 32.5 mm.  
Vertical Diameter: 32.5 mm.  
Reverse Die Orientation: 340°  
Specific Gravity: 8.85

The following analytical techniques were employed:

Comparative Gross Physical Examination  
Specific Gravity Determination

X-Ray Fluorescence Elemental Analysis  
X-Ray Diffraction Analysis  
Polarized Microscopy Examination

Gross Physical Examination

The first step in examining the gross physical characteristics of the Roper Birch cent was comparison of its physical parameters to those of known genuine examples. The weight of the Roper specimen is definitely lower than expected for the variety. Unfortunately, few weights of other examples have been published, and it is not possible to determine an accurate mean weight for the surviving population. Among Two Stars on Edge specimens, Garrett:2349 weighed 220.5 and Norweb:3394 weighed 216.8 grains; one owned by a private collector weighed 201.0 grains. The average weight of these three is 212.8 grains. The weight of the Roper piece is 10 grains lower than this average, but essentially identical to that of the third in the above list. If we add the weight of the Roper coin to the other three and take a new average, the result, 209.6 grains, is remarkably close to the weight standard called for in the Mint Act of January 14, 1793, which was 208 grains. The weights of both surviving Single Star on Edge specimens are known. Lauder:235 weighed 240.6 and Norweb:3395 weighed 262.3 grains. The weight of the Norweb piece was nearly identical to the standard called for in the Mint Act of April 2, 1792, 264.0 grains; the Lauder coin appears to be considerably under that standard. The weight of only one plain edge example seems to have been recorded, Park:201. At 226 grains, it is heavier than some of the Two Stars variety, lighter than both of the known Single Star coins, and it is tempting to see in it an "intermediate" standard between the two. Finally, the 1981 ANA coin, withdrawn as a cast counterfeit, weighed 193 grains, the lightest recorded.

Even less diameter and die orientation data has been published for Birch cents. What little has been suggests that the Roper parameters are in line with those recorded on genuine specimens. Norweb:3394 was 32.5 mm in diameter and was struck "coin turn" at 180°; Norweb:3395 was 33.5 mm and was also struck at a perfect "coin turn". The diameter of the Roper specimen falls into line with the two Norweb coins; its "medal turn" reverse die orientation of 340° does not. However, Lauder:235 was also struck "medal turn", at 360°. Assuming the two Norweb coins and the Lauder piece to be genuine, there appears to have been no single preferred reverse orientation when the Birch cents were struck.

The next step in the study of the Roper Birch cent was to compare its gross physical appearance to that of other known examples. If the Roper coin had been cast from molds taken from another specimen, it should show exact correspondence with the gross physical characteristics of its "prototype", such as: identical off-centering, identically located softness of design and "strike", identically strong/weak denticulation, and so on. If such exact correspondence could not be found, then it must be assumed either that the "prototype" was not included in the population of other specimens located and studied; or, that its condemnation in 1983 is unsupported by the reasons then given for it. It should be remembered that the Roper Birch cent was condemned during lot viewing, under less than ideal circumstances for close, unhurried study.

Auction catalogue and glossy black and white plates of the following possible "prototypes" for the Roper coin were compared to it: Norweb:3394, Garrett:2349, Bowers and Ruddy/Helwig:1539, 1955ANA:1421, Harmer Rooke/Million Dollar Sale I:

3739, Jenks:5571 (later, to Kreisberg-Schulman 1959:1166), and 1918ANA:2730. The Harmer Rooke coin may have been the same as the 1955ANA specimen, which was said to have been ex Parmelee, Brand. Two other sale references are known: Elder (9/37):1413 and Stack's FPL (5/49); neither of these were available to me for this study. I have assumed that both represent earlier appearances in the pedigree chains of one or two of the above enumerated specimens.

The Roper coin's gross physical characteristics may be described as follows. The surfaces are dark brown, the high points a lighter golden brown. The piece has a rough, microscopically granular, "soft" appearance which resembles that typical of copper casts made before the introduction of centrifugal casting techniques. A first impression of the Roper coin must necessarily be negative on the strength of its physical appearance. The obverse is perfectly centered, with a border of denticles that is visible from 12-2:00, 4-7:00, and 8-12:00. All the letters of the legend are fully legible, as are the date numerals. The central device is complete, but Liberty's curls over her shoulders and throat are very soft. The reverse was struck slightly off center, by less than 3%. Border denticles are strong from 8:30-5:00, not visible elsewhere, partly due to the off-centering. The peripheral legend is fully legible. The central denomination is soft, N of ONE being completely missing, but other letters are legible. The denomination fraction is complete. No trace of the inner circle remains visible. The edge lettering is "blundered", and reads TO BE ESTEEMED \* BE [U]SEFUL \*, U being missing.

Visual comparison of the Roper coin and the possible "prototypes" for it, if it were a cast taken from molds, shows conclusively that none of the above enumerated specimens could have served such a purpose.

Norweb:3394 has a very strong N in ONE and strong denticles above RICA. Garrett:2349 also has a strong N in ONE, shows the reverse inner circle and the berries in the wreath leaves, and has strong denticles under the fraction. Helwig:1539 was struck off center on the obverse, the tops of IENCE off flan. Jenks:5571 has a very strong N in ONE, denticles under the fraction, strong denticles over ERTY PARENT, and a full reverse inner circle. The 1955 ANA specimen also has a fully struck N in ONE and full denticles under the fraction, as well as over BERTY PAREN. The Harmer Rooke/Million Dollar Sale coin shares nearly identical characteristics with the 1955 ANA specimen, and may have been the same coin.

As noted earlier, the "prototype" most commonly suggested for the Roper Birch cent has been 1981ANA:2730, and their gross physical characteristics are extremely similar. On the 1981 ANA coin NE of ONE are very soft, flawed, as are EN of CENT. The denticles on the reverses of both begin to be visible over the N of UNITED and fade over IC of AMERICA. The denticles are strong in other places on both. Both have a similar edge bulge at 2:00 on the reverse. The reverse die orientation of the Roper coin is 340°, or rotated counterclockwise 20°. The cataloguer of the 1981 ANA specimen visually estimated the reverse orientation of that example to be 350°, a close correspondence to the Roper coin's orientation.

While the gross physical characteristics of the Roper coin and the 1981 ANA specimen are identical in many places, for the former to have been a cast made from molds taken from the latter (or, from some unidentified original that served as the prototype for both) the physical characteristics of both must be identical



Museum  
of  
Fine Arts  
Boston

465 Huntington Avenue  
Boston  
Massachusetts  
02115  
(617) 267-9300

June 11, 1991

**Mr. Eric P. Newman**  
Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louise, Missouri 63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

Please excuse my delinquency in not writing to you sooner. I have had the file to Mr. Flynn's silver armband on my desk for months, and have been side-railed any number of times from completing our inquiry. At the moment I am trying to get Cornelius Vermeule to examine the armband and coins, but for weeks, we have not been able to coordinate our schedules. At the moment the Museum is experiencing some difficulties which make Cornelius more inaccessible. I just wanted you to know that we are continuing to pursue the authenticity of the piece, and I hope to be writing to you soon regarding Cornelius' impressions. Thank you for your patience.

Sincerely,

Rachel J. Monfredo

Rachel J. Monfredo  
Research Assistant  
American Decorative Arts and Sculpture

1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio  
44233  
August 26, 1991

Eric P. Newman  
ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY  
5450 Cecil Avenue,  
St. Louis, Missouri  
63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

It has been quite some time now (almost a year) since the silver Indian armband and two N<sup>o</sup>3d coins were sent to the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston for a non-destructive metal analysis and opinion. If those items received a negative opinion from them and they have been returned to me, I have yet to receive them.

I have to say that from the well published photographs of the recently discovered N<sup>o</sup>6d coin by a coin shooter back east that I saw in my local library sure compare favorably with my examples. It is obvious that the Saugus Iron Works made a number of punch dies for those coins as the recent discovery seems "different" than photos of the other "known" examples. That, plus the fact the soldering of jewelry has been used for four thousand years should ease your mind about my coins should they have stood-up under the metal analysis.

Anyway, what is happening out there with my items? Also, I just acquired for my collection a pure copper Julian P-12 US Mint medal. Can you give me an idea what a rarity like that might be worth today? Also, got a perfect PR-40. Its value? Thanks.

Sincerely,

William G. Flynn

P.S. I only recently added to my collection an almost perfect example of the split date 1776 New Hampshire WM variety copper. I'm unequivocally positive this is an authentic piece and if so, as you know, a real super rarity. Wonder how I should go about having it authenticated? Who is qualified? WGB.

1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio  
44233  
August 26, 1991

Eric P. Newman  
ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY  
5450 Cecil Avenue,  
St. Louis, Missouri  
63105

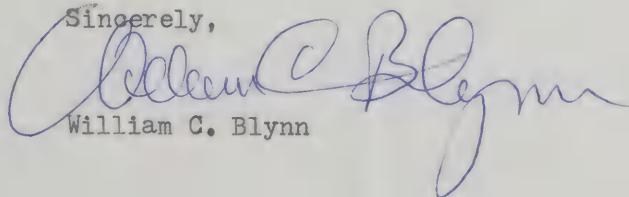
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Anyway, what is happening out there with my items? Also, I just acquired for my collection a pure copper Julian P-12 US Mint medal. Can you give me an idea what a rarity like that might be worth today? Also, got a perfect PR-40. Its value? Thanks.

Sincerely,



William C. Blynn



Museum  
of  
Fine Arts  
Boston  
465 Huntington Avenue  
Boston  
Massachusetts  
02115  
(617) 267-9300

August 30, 1991

Mr. Eric P. Newman  
Numismatic Education Society  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

It's the end of the summer, and time to finish up old business before the busy fall season sets in.

We haven't been able to make any definitive decisions about the silver armband belonging to Mr. William Blynn. There are several things that we find puzzling about the piece--specifically the silver content and the touchmark for Timothy Dwight. As we have already communicated with you, our Research Laboratory found the silver content unusually pure for a late 17th century piece--we would expect to find traces of gold and other impurities. The mark, which numerous people in the ADA department have examined, is unusual when compared to TD marks we are familiar with--it appears larger than a documented piece in our collection, with the edges of the heart a greater distance from the letters than is usual. The two letters appear to be sans serif, which seems inconsistent with what we would expect from late seventeenth American marks.

I will return the armband to you at the above address in the next two weeks, unless I hear from you to send it to an alternative address.

Sincerely,

*Rachel J. Monfredo*

Rachel J. Monfredo  
Research Assistant  
American Decorative Arts and Sculpture

Rachel Monfedo  
Decorative Arts  
Museum of Fine Arts  
Boston  
617 267 9438

617 267 1900 Sta 461

# MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

## Shipping Receipt

BOSTON · MASSACHUSETTS · 02115

date received:

date shipped: 11 September 1991

shipped via:

insured by:

declared value:

7-403-1-3, 1990

Will Kennedy-Kernohan

## Registrar's Office

Silver armband engraved with Rose and thorn

Received the objects listed above in good condition, unless otherwise stated.

Date

9 | 20 | 9 |

**Signature**

Please sign and return the white copy. The yellow copy is for your files.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

September 23, 1991

Ms. Rachel J. Monfredo  
Research Assistant  
American Decorative Arts & Sculpture  
Museum of Fine Arts  
465 Huntington Avenue  
Boston, MA 02115

Dear Ms. Monfredo:

Thank you very much for your August 30, 1991 letter with respect to the Timothy Dwight touchmark on the Indian armband.

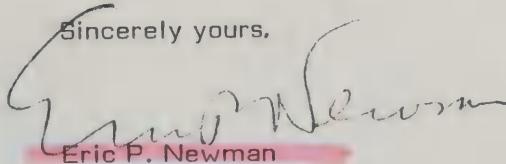
I realize that an authentication opinion in this project is difficult, but your tentative conclusions seem to indicate that the purity of the silver and the unusual way the T.D. mark occurs is inconsistent with a genuine piece.

Our present opinion is that the two New England three pence pieces are not genuine.

I learned from Donald Fennimore at Colonial Williamsburg that silver solder was used in early America, so the solder would require a chemical analysis to see if it was too modern.

If anything comes up in the future which will throw further light on this matter, I will appreciate hearing from you. I thank you for what you did in the matter.

Sincerely yours,



Eric P. Newman

EPN:bv

1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, OH  
44233  
October 11, 1991

Eric P. Newman  
ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY  
5450 Cicil Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri  
63105

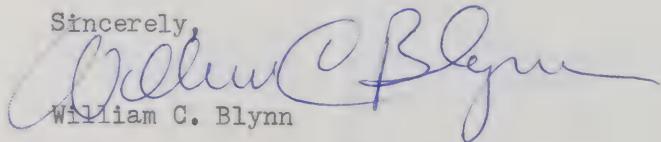
Dear Mr. Newman,

I wrote you last August 26 regarding my two N<sup>d</sup> 3d coins and Indian armband and haven't received a response as yet to that letter. Perhaps my letter or yours has been lost, so I am enclosing a photocopy of mine (with an additional P.S.).

As I am sure you are aware of, it has now been twelve years since you took on the project. Do you feel you still should have more time before your opinion can be written? Or, where do things stand. I would guess you are probably more optomistic than ever now, just as I am. But, if I am wrong do you think it is time to "throw the sponge in" and return the complete item to me?

Please let me know, will you?

Sincerely,

  
William C. Blynn

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

October 25, 1991

Mr. William C. Blynn  
1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, OH 44233

Dear Mr. Blynn:

You will recall that with your consent, an opinion on your armband was sought from the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. Just over a year ago I sent the armband and the coins to them for such an opinion. They studied the items for a long period and returned them just before I took a vacation to Europe this month. I am enclosing copies of their preliminary opinion dated January 14, 1991 (misdated January 14, 1990) and the subsequent opinion dated August 30, 1991.

I checked with the Colonial Williamsburg silver expert as to whether silver solder was used in early America, and he indicated that it was.

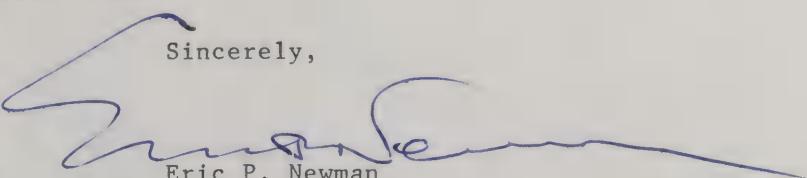
My own personal opinion is that the coins are forgeries. I am not willing to give an opinion on the armband because I do not feel qualified to do so, but if the coins are not genuine, the armband to which they were attached may be similarly tainted.

I have worked for a long, long time studying these items, hoping that I could find a basis for authenticating them. I have written many letters and telephoned others throughout the country. I feel I have done all I can. I have a suggestion based somewhat on the earlier correspondence. Our organization would like to keep in its forgery collection one of the New England three pence pieces and send you back the other with the armband, subject to the understanding that if you subsequently obtain a reliable opinion that the three pence pieces are genuine, we would then return the three pence piece which we have retained.

I realize that this matter is very disappointing to you, but you know that I have worked in every way possible to try to find a basis to support your feeling that the armband and coins are genuine. I know that it has been over a decade. Techniques improved substantially during that period and those techniques unfortunately did not add much to the research on this problem.

Let me hear from you as to whether my suggestion is satisfactory and I will return the appropriate items.

Sincerely,

  
Eric P. Newman

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

October 25, 1991

Mr. William C. Blynn  
1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, OH 44233

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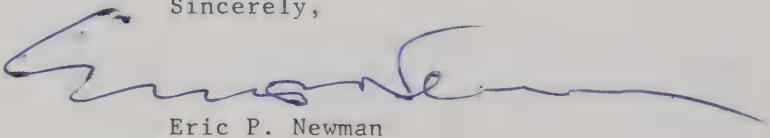
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Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

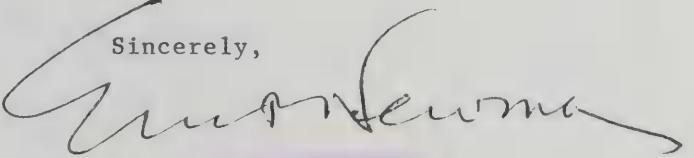
October 25, 1991

Mr. William C. Blynn  
1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, OH 44233

Dear Mr. Blynn:

As to the New Hampshire item mentioned in your August 26, 1991 letter, it is my opinion that there are no genuine pieces with WM on them, whether struck, cut or cast.

Sincerely,

  
Eric P. Newman

EPN: bv

1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio  
44233  
October 29, 1991

Eric P. Newman  
ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri  
63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

It appears that our little numismatic adventure has reached a final conclusion, albeit a disappointing one. However, after going over your and the Museum of Fine Arts Boston's correspondences, I still feel the door is still open on this one.

Statements by the museum such as "a slightly higher level at one point" and the "XRF is a surface technique, so have to take into consideration the possibility that the exterior surface may not reflect the interior composition" and others such as "American silversmiths dipped objects in acidic medium to remove oxide and copper" and "this phenomenon does not pertain to the armband and two coins whose surfaces are worn to the extent that only key details remain ----- corrosion --- have not undergone extensive corrosion, etc." leave much doubt as to the thoroughness of the exam.

For one, I don't believe the coins and armband are highly worn on the surfaces. The simple technique of the devices on the band are common on unimportant silver objects of the time, even by Dwight and, of course, the devices on the coins were just that way. They probably are not aware of either circumstance. Then, the surfaces were probably dipped in 1653, plus I dipped the unit just prior to sending it to you. I wanted to accomplish several things by doing that: remove what was still very effident - the still rather heavy corrosion and oxidation, I wanted to bring up the silversmith's hammer marks on the bracelet (which as I remember are just beautiful) and I felt by cleaning out the discolouring in the pitting and around the holes in both the coins and bracelet would tell me something. It told me a lot and pleased me with encouragement. However, no amount of my dipping would remove the exidation around the coins' holes and, Sir, that says a lot! The objects, especially the coins have pitting exactly like that on similar silver coins and related of that period that have been buried 300 years and can only be a natural phenomenon. No, they should have done what ever was neccesary to get a complete answer. Note they say themselves that "we haven't been able to make any definitive decisions ..." I wonder how all of the above compares with your own personal NE coins?

Maybe I'm just stubborn, but I still feel they have a very good chance.

It makes me wonder what the ANACS had to do to authenticate the latest NE 6d coin recently discovered. It sure is a good match to my two.

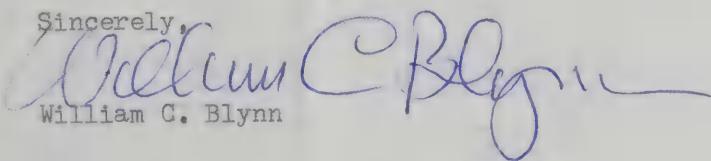
Anyway, I cannot thank you enough for sticking with this project all those years, Mr. Newman. I can appreciate all the work you've put into it. However, I simply could not have one of my coins housed in an institution classified as a counterfeit, yet, nor have the unit returned incomplete. I guess I will now just attempt to sell it and try to get my money back out of it. Of course, all the paper work will be accompanying the unit. So, I am requesting the return of the complete unit, the two coins, armband and hangers.

As for the New Hampshire coin I wrote you about. I have owned a parcel of early coppers in my day some of which were in the condition census. So, I believe I do recognize two hundred years of natural oxidizing when I see it. My coin has ever slight handling evidence, therefore the natural aging is really apparent and makes it a true thing of beauty. They just cannot even today artificially age a copper coin like this. I do not know if New Hampshire had an official coin such as the WM, but this is no doubt a 200+ year old coin! With all do respect to your, opinion, of course.

I doubt you'd want to become involved with the WM, especially due to your apparent firm opinion. But, were you to examine it I believe you'd be tempted to revise your opinion. If this one could be authenticated, I would probably be so delighted I'd let one of the 3d coins go to the society.

I will be awaiting the return of the unit and, again, thank you very much.

Sincerely,

  
William C. Lynn

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

November 14, 1991

Mr. William C. Blynn  
1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, OH 44233

Dear Mr. Blynn:

Your letter of October 29, 1991 has been received and reviewed.

I am as disappointed as you are in the opinion of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

As to the New England sixpence which was found in Long Island, this coin was easy to authenticate. It had the identical dies of the known New England sixpences. It had toning from burial. Its weight was normal. There was no doubt that it was original.

Now that you tease me with your proposition related to the New Hampshire piece, I will look at your New Hampshire piece and give you a quick opinion. My New Hampshire file is very complete due to a law suit earlier this year in which I was to testify, but which fortunately was settled. Do tell me the source of your New Hampshire piece when you send it.

As to the return of the unit, please tell me the method by which you wish it returned and the amount of insurance which you wish me to put on it.

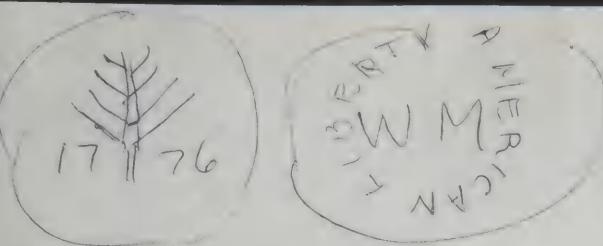
I can only hope that your New Hampshire piece gives me a chance to change my opinion. I always retain an open mind.

My kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

EPN:bv



Eric P. Newman  
ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri  
63105

1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio  
44233  
November 18, 1991

Dear Mr. Newman,

Thank you for your nice letter of November 14.

I do hope you won't mind too much if I take the liberty of sending along photographs of my New Hampshire WM piece before sending the actual coin. I feel that rather than both of us going to the expense and trouble of sending the coin back and forth, not to mention the time, it may be best if you look at the photos under a good light first and thereby formulate in your mind whether the matter deserves further interest on your part. I know there is no substitute for the actual coin in the hand, but please bear with me. The colour photographs are quite good and should help.

A couple of questions: even if your opinion on the WM should indicate it is an original, where would that take us? You say you believe no originals presently exist of that coin, so I assume the coin, meaning the WM variety, was actually produced by New Hampshire around 1776 and was intended to be a coin of the realm. And, if this is the first to be authenticated, by you, the most qualified person to do so, wouldn't that make some sort of history and deserve generate publicity in the media numismatic press? Would you find it reasonable to expect that or is it expecting too much? To be perfectly frank, I would expect no less if I am to donate the one NE 3d "coin" to your institution. And, of course, if you cannot give a positive opinion I would still want back the NE items in entirety.

So, let me know and return the photogrpahs unless you'll be needing them for awhile, please.

Yours truly,

*William C. Blynn*

William C. Blynn

P.S. My coin surfaced during the seventies having been found among the possessions of the grandmother of the person I purchased it from in the five figures. At that time it was examined by several knowledgeable persons including Mort Reed who, I'm told thought it was great. They do not know where Grandmother obtained it, but the seller, who is quite well off, was sole heir to the estate. No one, I'm told, went much further with it. WCB.

William C. Blynn  
1929 Ledge Rd.  
Hinckley, OH 44233

December 10, 1991

Dear Mr. Blynn:

The pictures of the New Hampshire coin are here. They are too poor to study. I am returning them as requested. If you paid five figures, I hope you mean about \$100.00 and not about \$10,000.

Breen casts doubt on all of these with his usual vagueness. I wish Maurice Gould were alive today as he discovered this type and made copies of them about 1960. I would have him take a polygraph test.

There is no purpose in sending the coin as no state would have permitted a coiner to put his enormous initials as the major device on one side of the coin. This would be the largest designer initials in world coinage.

If you still want the arm band and 3d pieces back just tell me what to insure them for and how you want them sent. If you want to leave one 3d here on the basis I suggested then that would be fair as I see it.

We have had over the years quite a correspondence and I know you are disappointed. Keep collecting.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio  
44233  
December 12, 1991

Eric P. Newman  
ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY  
6450 Cecil Avenue  
St. Louis, MO  
63105

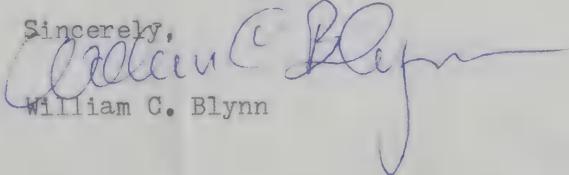
Dear Mr. Newman,

Thank you for your recent letter regarding my NH "coin. I am slightly confused in that you said Maurice Gould discovered this type and made copies. But, what did he discover to copy from? And, yes I paid \$10, 000 for it! I can't seem to win for loosing.

Anyway, I believe I'll have a time of it trying to recover my money on the bracelet and coins if I were to try to sell it incomplete. So, please return it in its entirety. I'll try and if successful will send you one piece.

I hate to be hardnosed after all the help you've tried to be to me, but I've got to try to get some of this money back. Please try to understand.

Just insure it for whatever you feel comfortable with.

Sincerely,  
  
William C. Blynn

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

REGISTERED MAIL

William C. Blynn  
1929 Ledge Rd.  
Hinckley OH 44233

January 21, 1992

Dear Mr. Blynn:

I have been in the West Indies and am now in a position to send back your silver Indian armband and the two detached and holed New England threepence.

They are enclosed. When you or some other qualified person are convinced that the coins are forgeries please send us one as agreed.

This has been a long complex experience.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

1929 Ledge Road  
Hinckley, Ohio  
44233

January 31, 1992

Eric P. Newman  
ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY  
6450 Cécil Avenue  
St. Louis, MO  
63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

I am in receipt of the return of the TD Indian Arm Bracelette and two NE 3d Dangles. Also, your two communications dated January 21.

Now that I have the silver items before me again for the first time in almost thirteen years I really have difficulty accepting that they have not been authenticated, or at least, given a maybe or probably. The beauty of the three items is almost overwhelming to me and I had forgotten how exciting they are. It makes me wish that while they were at it, the Boston Museum facility would have gone as deep as they needed to to get a thorough reading. Had they, I am sure things would have been different. But, even then, the seriffs on the T and D that are "lacking" present a problem, but I don't think negates the silver entirely of itself.

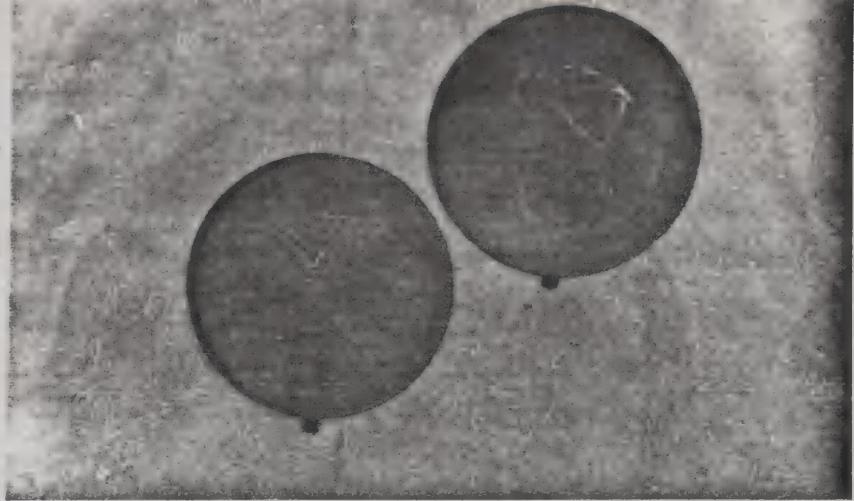
However, now that we've reached this point, I guess I will just go ahead and try to recoup some of my money. If I can do it to my satisfaction I will, of course, donate one of the pieces (whichever might be left) to your society. But, if it takes the entire unit to do it, then I will have no choice but to do what I have to to recover that loss.

With regards to the New Hampshire "coin," again I am hard to convince. That is no doubt, in my fairly knowledgeable opinion, a two hundred year old piece of copper. If it isn't of New Hampshire or William Melton as you seem to feel, then it is of other origins. Perhaps a prototype pattern from elsewhere. Whatever, it'll take real convincing for someone to convince me it was only recently produced.

Anyway, I have in fact, not \$10 thousand in it, but rather closer to #12 thousand. However, it was as gold, diamonds, etc. with no receipts. May sound "fishy" to you, but true none-the-less. I can still give you the telephone number of the seller, if you wish, and would be more than willing to do so. I did not know him before the transaction nor have I seen him since. But, he is verifiable and I just plain think this was no intentional fraud. It may be, but the coin looks so probable I choose not to think so at this time. And, you stated Maurice Gould discovered this type and made copies. I wonder what the background is on the piece he discovered and if he was honorable. And, how one tells the difference between the original and his copies. Hopefully, we'll have good reason to be in touch sometime in the future.

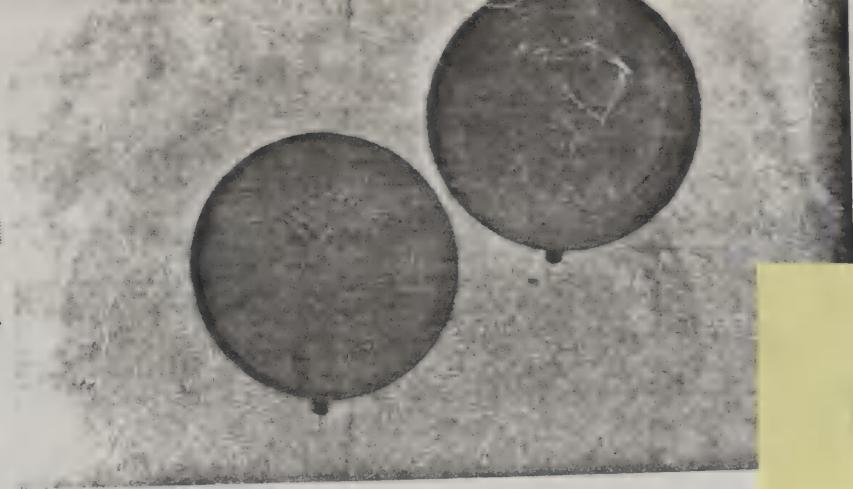
Sincerely,

William C. Blynn



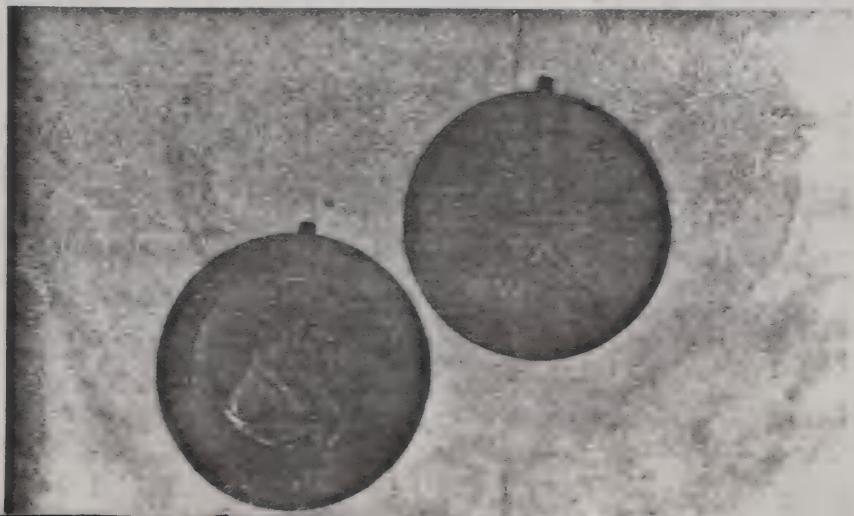
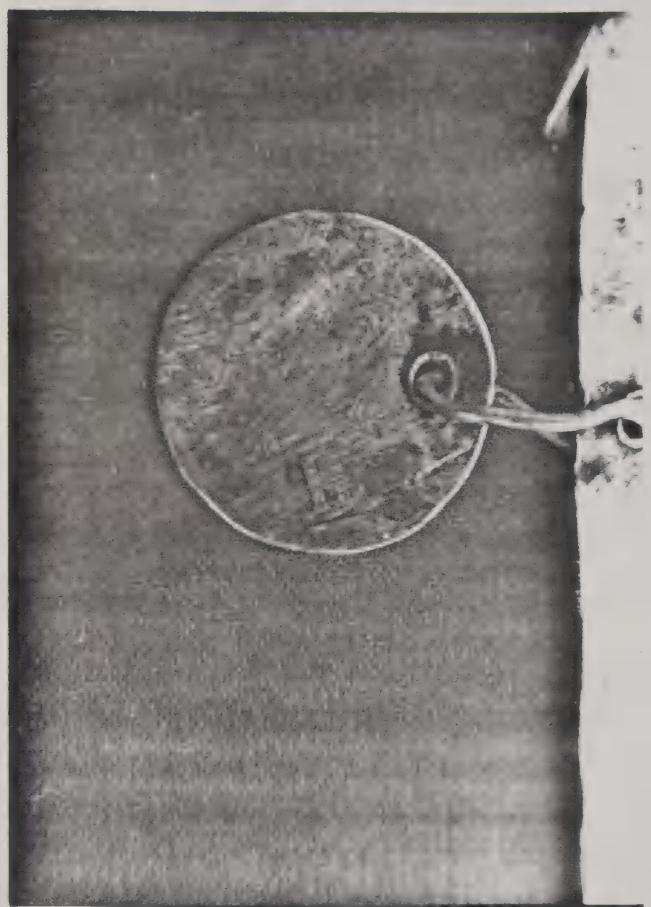






1980





Dwight (1654-91), who in his short life developed marked skill. Hull, in his diary, speaks of Timothy Dwight and Daniel Quincy as living with him, and it is possible that they served an apprenticeship to him. Dwight was the maker of the tankard with the acanthus base and well-modeled lion thumb-piece already mentioned, now the property of a member of the Shattuck family. He also made the tazza described on page 49.

Another silversmith who came into prominence during this period, though much of his work falls in the succeeding period, is Edward Winslow (1669-1753). He is one of the greatest of early Boston silversmiths. From the superior quality of his work it has been presumed that he served part of his apprenticeship abroad. On his paternal side he was grandson of John Winslow and Mary Chilton, and on the maternal side he was great-grandson of Mistress Anne Hutchinson, that indomitable lady who so seriously disturbed the equanimity of the Puritan Fathers. That her descendant Edward inherited her energy is demonstrated by the list of public offices which he held. He served as constable of Boston, 1699; tithing-man, 1703; surveyor, 1705; overseer of the poor, 1711, 1712; selectman, 1714; declining reelection in 1715. He was captain of militia; major of the Boston regiment, 1729, and colonel, 1733; second sergeant of the Artillery Company, 1702; lieutenant, 1711, captain, 1714, and 1729; sheriff of Suffolk County, 1728-1743; judge of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas from 1743 until his death. Two of his sons were lost in 1715 in the ill-fated Louisburg Expedition. Of Winslow's silver

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[56]

Early American Silver  
G. Loring Ayer  
The Century Co.  
New York 1920

## Massachusetts Silver

miah Dummer. He enjoyed the distinction of having engraved the plates for the first paper money made in the colonies, that issued by Massachusetts Bay in 1690. (He passed on the knowledge of his craft to another notable silversmith, Apollos Rivoire, a Huguenot refugee who anglicized his name to Paul Revere and became father of the more famous son of the same name). On his death, the Conley estate amounted to £4,000. An entertaining way of gauging his skill, productivity, and versatility is to stand in front of a case of his silver exhibited at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. From these and other examples scattered through numerous public and private collections, we find that Conley made a wide variety of pieces, including beakers, tankards, candle-cups, candlesticks, spoons, forks, mugs, casters, tea-pots, chocolate-pots, braziers, salts, porringer, boxes for sweetmeats, tazzas. These do not all date prior to 1710, the date we have selected as the approximate end of this period, but as Conley died in 1722, his work is all necessarily quite early. The list indicates what a number of domestic pieces Conley turned out. Perhaps he catered to people who wished silver chiefly for their homes, and this may account for the fact that his silver tends toward lighter effects than does that of Dummer. He was an able modeler, as the lion feet of the inkstand (Plate I.) and the eagle thumb-piece on his tankard, now owned by Mrs. W. Wanton Dunnell, demonstrate. He also accomplished clever engraving, as in the plate in Mr. Pickman's collection (Plate III).

Among the abler New England silversmiths of the seventeenth century should be mentioned Timothy

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(5)

the sworn officers of the mint." In 1663, the Court ordered a coinage of twopenny pieces. All persons had liberty to bring in bullion, plate, and Spanish pieces, and have them converted into Massachusetts coins; but, in 1654,<sup>1</sup> it was enacted, that to "send, carry, or transport, out of this jurisdiction, any of the money" so coined, exceeding twenty shillings for necessary expenses, should subject the offender to the confiscation of all his visible estate.

It is because the tradition has been sanctioned in a public lecture by Mr. Sparks, that the anecdote is here introduced of the indignation expressed by King Charles at the presumption of the colony in usurping his prerogative in coining money; and that, on being informed that the figure upon the coins which represents a tree was the *royal oak* which was the means of preserving his majesty's life, this evidence of loyalty quite allayed his resentment: while the government of the colony expressed its confidence, that, when his majesty should be truly informed of the usefulness of the mint, "and the simplicity of our acting, he would not account those to be friends to his crown that shall seek to interrupt us therein; and, for the impress put upon the coins, we shall take it as his majesty's signal owning us, if he will please to order such an impress as shall be to him most acceptable." It was allowed to Mr. Hull to take one shilling out of every

for weight, every shilling to be three pennyweight." "And they made choice of me for that employment; and I chose my friend, Robert Sanderson, to be my partner, to which the Court consented." On this subject we find, in the Court's order for establishing the mint, that it "being of so great concernment, that it may not in any particular thereof fall to the ground," Richard Bellingham and four others were constituted a committee to appoint the mint-house in some convenient place in Boston, and to give John Hull the oath suitable to his place.<sup>1</sup> The "mint-house" was located on Mr. Hull's estate, the land to be conveyed to the government, at a fair valuation, when his office of mint-master expired (Drake's Hist. Boston). The design was promptly put in execution. The date attached to the coins is 1652, and was never changed, although the coinage was continued for several years. The first order of the Court was, that the coins should be, "for form, flat and square on the sides, and stamped on the one side with NE, and on the other side with XII<sup>d</sup>., VI<sup>d</sup>., and III<sup>d</sup>." It was afterwards ordered,<sup>2</sup> that, to prevent "clipping or washing," they should have "a double ring on either side, with this inscription: Massachusetts, and a tree in the centre, on the one side; and New England, and the date of the year, on the other side." They were also to have "a private mark, known only to the Governor, and

<sup>1</sup> May 26, 1652.<sup>2</sup> Oct. 19, 1652.

formed by Governor Winthrop, "on the 11th of the 3d month," 1647. Mrs. Hull was born in England, Sept. 3, 1626. She survived her husband, and died in 1695.

In 1648, he became a member of Mr. Cotton's church. He was a Puritan, zealous for the preservation of uniformity, watchful against all innovations, and approving, no doubt from a conviction of their propriety, the severe measures adopted by the government in its treatment of the Anabaptists and Quakers.

In the same year, he was "chosen and accepted as corporal, under the command of the honored Major Gibbons," and in 1652 became a sergeant. The importance attached to this office, and his sense of the responsibility which it involved, may be inferred from an entry in his diary, in which he beseeches that "the good Lord would please to make me able and fit for, and faithful in, the place I am called unto; that I may, as with a spirit of wisdom and humility, love and faithfulness, obey my superiors; so also be exemplary and helpful to my inferiors, and by him be kept from temptation and corruption."

It was in 1652, as he states in his diary, that, "upon occasion of much counterfeit coin brought into the country, and much loss accruing in that respect (and that did occasion a stoppage of trade), the General Court ordered a mint to be set up, and to coin it, bringing it to the sterling standard for fineness; and,

D

twenty shillings which he coined.<sup>1</sup> Hutchinson says the money did not obtain currency anywhere, otherwise than as bullion, except in the New-England colonies; and that the mint-master raised a large fortune by it.

In 1654, Mr. Hull was chosen ensign of the South Military Company, and, in 1656, "by the sergeant-major and military officers to keep the records of their proceedings." In 1657, he was chosen one of the seven Selectmen of Boston, in which capacity he served several years. In 1658, he was chosen "by the Selectmen to receive, keep, and dispose of, the town's stock or treasure." In 1660, he was admitted a member of the Artillery Company, afterwards known as the Ancient and Honorable. Of this company he was ensign in 1663, under Gen. Leverett, and, in 1664, lieutenant. In 1671, he became its captain, and continued in office until 1678.

In 1668, he was chosen by the town of Wenham to be their deputy in the General Court; which office, by the persuasion "of Mr. Newman, Mr. Cobbett, and sundry other friends," he was induced to accept. In 1671, 1673, and 1674, he was also a deputy for the town of Westfield, in 1676 for Concord, and in 1679-80 for Salisbury.

In 1669, he was one of the founders of the Old

<sup>1</sup> This allowance was afterwards changed. Some information relating to it, and the efforts which the Court made to change it, will be found in a note to the page in Hull's private diary which alludes to the establishment of the mint.

and like to be very useful in his generation." (10)

A craftsman seven years older than Dummer, whose few surviving pieces indicate kinship with Hull and Sanderson, was William Rouse (1639-1704/5). Although his birth is not included in the printed Boston records, nor his apprenticeship noted by Hull, his tankard and floral engraved patch box (Cat. 125) owned by Yale University incline one to identify him with these early Boston craftsmen. His sugar forks are the only known New England survivors of a form even then fast going out of style (Cat. 126).

Only two pieces are known by Timothy Dwight (1654-1691/2) another documented apprentice of the first partnership. Both are unique; the floral engraved salver (Cat. 57) for its attempt at Chinoiserie, or so one interprets its exotic animals, and the tankard (Cat. 56) for its British-derived yet essentially Dutch acanthus base not known on other colonial tankards. Its cast lion thumbpiece well worn in service recalls those boasts used by John Coney to support Governor Belcher's standish (Cat. 39), the only known instances of their appearance in the full round in colonial American silver.

John Coney (1656-1722) has also been the subject of a monograph by Mr. Clarke wherein his master, in the absence of documentary evidence, was not named. Comparisons of his work, however, and coincidences of records seem to point conclusively to Hull and Sanderson, and the expressed opinion that Coney was too young for such an apprenticeship is refuted in Hull's diary of November 1673: "I accepted Samuel Clark, son of Jonas Clark, as an apprentice for eight years." In 1678, the three took an

## John Hull (9)

Bracelet  
SILVER & COPPER  
17<sup>th</sup> CENTURY  
COLLECTED  
DECEMBER 1948  
NEW YORK  
Historic Silver of the Colonies

handel is affixed; the spout was added at a late date. Engraved on the front is a full-rigged ship and the initials WD&E for William Downe, and Elizabeth (Edwards) Cheever who were married in 1749. It belongs to Dr. Frederick C. Shattuck, a descendant. This fine tankard was made by one of the earliest of the second generation of Boston silversmiths, Timothy Dwight (1654-91), whose father Captain Timothy Dwight of Dedham married for his third wife Anne Flynt the niece of Edmund Quincy: he was apprenticed to John Hull without doubt. Timothy Dwight's half-brother Nathaniel was the great-grandfather of Timothy Dwight president of Yale College. There is record of this tankard prior to the date 1748 but it is supposed to have come into the Cheever family through Elizabeth Edwards — daughter of Thomas Edwards (1701-55), the silversmith whose first wife was Sarah Burr of Charlestown. John Stedman came to Cambridge in 1638; steward or general superintendent in the affairs of Rev. Jose Glover who left "his faythful servant, John Stedman, the sum of fifty pounds John Stedman, the son, to whom was granted the monopoly of the fur trade for Cambridge 1658, was treasurer of the county for twenty years and was prominent in military affairs. He died December 16, 1693, at the age of 75. His eldest daughter Elizabeth married, second husband, Henry Thompson a me-

shop in Boston about 1671 and there fashioned some very excellent pieces of silver that still remain extant. Though there is no documentary evidence that Dwight learned his craft from H.<sup>enry</sup> and Sanderson, it may be assumed because there seems to have been no other opportunity available at the time, and furthermore, Dwight was related to Hull by marriage.<sup>36</sup> Hull also wrote in his Diary under date of November 1673: "I accepted Sam'l Clarke son of Jonas Clark as an Apprentice for 8 years."<sup>37</sup>

Robert Sanderson had three sons who were trained as silversmiths under their father. Benjamin<sup>38</sup> and Joseph<sup>39</sup> predeceased him. None of Joseph's work has been identified and only a very few pieces, marked with a crude "B S" in a rectangle have been attributed to Benjamin. Robert Sanderson, Jr.<sup>40</sup> is known to have worked in Watertown, but none of his handiwork has been identified. It has been suggested that certain of the pieces bearing the mark of the elder Sanderson were made by Robert, Jr., but there is no proof of this contention and the character and similarity of the workmanship to pieces bearing the marks of the partnership would seem to disprove the theory.

To John Hull and Robert Sanderson, both as individuals and as a partnership, the succeeding generations owe a debt of gratitude, not only because of the pleasure to be derived from looking upon the several objects of silver created by them but for the part they played in the early development of the aesthetic sense in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The art of the silversmith was the first of the fine arts to be introduced into British North America.

Timothy Dwight's father married for his third wife Anna Flynt, a niece of Edmund Quincy, brother-in-law and step-brother of John Hull. "Diary of Samuel Sewall," in *Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, ser. 5, vol. V, p. 52.

<sup>37</sup>. John Hull, Private Diary, leaf 13, verso, American Antiquarian Society Library. A modern transcription is in the *Transactions* of the Society, vol. III, p. 162. A spoon attributed to him is in the Clearwater Collection in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City.

<sup>38</sup>. Benjamin Sanderson, baptized on July 29, 1649, died in 1678.

<sup>39</sup>. Joseph Sanderson, born on January 1, 1643, died in 1667.

<sup>40</sup>. Robert Sanderson, Jr., born on October 3, 1652 (?), died in 1714.

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The bracelet changed hands in this order: Old farmer to antique collector (who didn't know that those were coins; thought they were "do-dads") who scoured the country-side everywhere; to his long time collecting friend on a trade for an antique rifle (this fellow whom I know well recognized them as coins, but got discouraged easily trying to authenticate them and got hard-up for money); to me who bought it outright along with many other Indian artifacts because of my interest in antiquities. Thus since it was found it only changed hands three times.

Rachel Monfedo  
Decorative Arts  
Museum of Fine Arts  
Boston  
617 267 9438

617 267 1900 8th 461

Fred Rosen  
Harvard Medical  
617 523 5089 res  
731 6470 Harvard

Edward Firestone Jr  
Firestone and Parsons  
Ritz Carlton Hotel  
Boston

Hd of Pathology at Wash Univ  
is Emil Unanue  
his son is David who goes to  
Lafayette.

We have been trying to make you satisfied with your gift to us. You specifically accepted our prior proposition of our letter rather than whatever ~~test~~  
~~test~~ We are sorry you are ~~disagreed~~ proposed  
proposed in

We ~~were~~ tried to be very clear in what we wrote and we were. We are sending copies underlined. We have no right to ~~you~~ give back something which has been ~~donated~~ to us. ~~We are~~ We don't think which has been ~~sold~~ to us. ~~We are~~ We have been completely forthright and cooperative with you. You are now trying to change your mind. Think once & let us know ~~your~~ whether There is no tax deduction unless a completed gift is made.

As you know if ~~if~~ a tax deduction is taken ~~the~~ it must be ~~the~~ given ~~and~~ and it must be a by ~~you~~ completed gift.

Point out acceptance of my proposal

Thank for data

Have you a picture of the one TD item.

Please look at this matter from our point of view. We have given you <sup>research</sup> opinions and advice ~~advice~~ without cost to you for years. We have ~~given~~ given you proposals to <sup>make a</sup> of ~~choose~~ the items and you accepted one. We do not believe it is right for you to try to change things again. We tried to be very clear